



## ANMF (Vic Branch) Policy

### Nursing care of the patient during transit

All nurses and midwives together with health care agencies have a duty of care to patients, residents or clients (herein called patient/s) being in their care. Such care continues during transport whether this is internal (within the healthcare facility) or external (to another facility or home).

Patients may have multiple and complicated nursing/midwifery care regimens in progress, the registered nurse/midwife accompanying the patient must have the competence and skills to intervene to the level that would occur if the patient were still in their primary care area.

Physically able and mentally competent patients may wish to leave their primary care area independently, or with carers, from time to time. Registered nurses and midwives should advocate for the patient and advise the patient as to the best action. These patients have the right to make their own choices and should be advised of the risks of leaving the primary care area where this might be inadvisable.

### Purpose and scope

This policy is intended to:

1. Inform decisions about whether a patient requires nursing/midwifery care during transit, and the level of the care required; and
2. Guide the practice of nurses and midwives involved in the care of a patient during transit.

### Policy

The policy of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian Branch) is that:

1. Patients where required are entitled to the provision of nursing care during transit.
2. Prior to the transit, the registered nurse/midwife responsible for the patient's care, must decide whether the patient requires nursing/midwifery care during the transit. Such a decision will take account of:
  - a. the health status of the patient;
  - b. the complexity of the patient's care;
  - c. the need for monitoring and continuous or regular observation;
  - d. the presence of any therapeutic interventions including the administration of nurse initiated adrenaline;
  - e. the location of and reason for the transport, and any procedures or investigations that will require the presence of a registered nurse or midwife (for example, emotional support, invasive procedures, analgesia and/or sedation);
  - f. the method of transport most appropriate; and
  - g. the presence of all equipment, supplies and documentation required to achieve the above (for example, oxygen and suction, monitoring, resuscitation equipment, medication, medication orders and medical record)

3. Adequate means of communication, and the ability to have the appropriate response to a medical emergency, must be available.
4. Registered nurses and midwives should hand-over patients who are to undergo external transportation to suitably qualified staff only.
5. Occupational health and safety requirements must be observed and adequate physical assistance must be available to ensure safe transit.
6. Registered nurses and midwives who are not familiar with the status of the patient, the means of transport or the care to be delivered, should not accompany the patient until they are satisfied they are able to deliver safe nursing/midwifery care during transit.