

Transfer Out Protocol for Hand/Digit Replantation Patients

No trauma patients are transferred out of Westchester Medical Center with the exception of patients requiring digit replantation when a provider is encumbered or not available.

Purpose:

To provide a clear process for transferring patients who may need hand or digit replantation when a replant surgeon is not available at WMC-Valhalla.

Scope:

This protocol applies to all patients at WMC-Valhalla who may require hand or digit replantation and involves coordination among the Emergency Department (ED), Hand Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Trauma Surgery, and the Transfer Center.

Transfer Protocol

1. Types of Patients for Transfer:

- Patients who potentially require hand or digit replantation.
- Excludes hand injuries not requiring replantation

2. Incoming Transfer Requests:

- When Hand Surgery is covered by a surgeon who does not perform replant surgery:
 - WMC-Valhalla will not accept incoming transfers for replantation cases from any hospital.
 - Referring hospitals will be advised to seek alternative centers.

3. Patients Presenting Directly to WMC-Valhalla:

- If a patient arrives on-site:
 - The ED provider or Trauma Surgeon consults the on-call Hand Surgery provider.
 - A mid-level Hand Surgery provider (fellow/resident/ APP) evaluates the patient and consults the Hand Surgery Attending.
 - The Hand Surgery Attending decides if a transfer is necessary.
 - The ED physician immediately initiates the transfer if recommended.
 - In time-sensitive cases where obtaining a Hand Surgery consultation may delay transfer, the ED Attending and/or Trauma Surgery Attending will make a determination and initiate transfer immediately.



4. Time Frame for Transfers:

- **Evaluation by Hand Surgery Provider:** Within 30 minutes of patient arrival.
- **Decision to Transfer:** Within 1 hour of patient arrival.
- **Notification:** Immediate notification to:
 - Section Chief of Plastic Surgery
 - Chief of Trauma
 - Senior Medical Director of Medical Logistics and the Transfer Center
- Document all consultations, decisions, and evaluation times in the EMR.

5. Referral Centers for Outgoing Transfers:

- **Primary Referral Center:**
 - Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC) is the primary transfer center for replantation with a transfer agreement in place.
- **Alternative Centers:**
 - If NUMC is unavailable, the Transfer Center will find an alternative capable center.

6. Communication and Coordination:

- The Transfer Center coordinates all transfer logistics.
- Continuous communication must be maintained among the ED, Hand Surgery, Plastic Surgery, and the Transfer Center to ensure a smooth transfer process.

Responsibilities:

- **ED Provider/Trauma Surgeon:** Initiates the consultation with the Hand Surgery provider, oversees the transfer process and makes the determination for need of transfer in time-sensitive situations.
- **Hand Surgery Provider:** Evaluates the patient and consults with the Hand Surgery Attending to determine the need for transfer.
- **Hand Surgery Attending:** Makes recommendations and communicates with all relevant parties.
- **Transfer Center:** Manages transfer logistics