

LIFE OR LIMB POLICY

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2014

Life or Limb Policy applies when a patient presents with a life or limb threatening condition.

**All consultations for Life or Limb cases should be coordinated through CritiCall Ontario:
1-800-668-4357**

Exceptions exist where established processes are already in place e.g., Ontario Stroke Network, Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention STEMI Program

Referring Physician:

- ▶ Request an internal consultation to confirm that the patient requires a higher level of care than the hospital is able to provide
- ▶ Contact CritiCall Ontario to facilitate timely communication between referring physician and most appropriate consulting physician/service
- ▶ Clearly communicate to the CritiCall Ontario call agent that the patient is a life or limb case and cannot be safely cared for at the hospital

Consulting Physician:

- ▶ Respond to pages from CritiCall Ontario regarding a provisional life or limb case within 10 minutes
- ▶ Provide medical consultation even if a bed or resources are not immediately available as the patient's life or limb threatened condition is priority
- ▶ Accept patients with life or limb threatening conditions that cannot be served by the hospital at which the patient is located, provided the clinical expertise is available