

Physician attendance during interhospital patient transfer

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Dear Editor,
We read the publication on 'Physician attendance during interhospital patient transfer in Ontario: 2005-2015' with great interest.¹ Wonnacott *et al.* concluded that 'physician-attended ambulance transfer in Ontario is largely provided by family physicians in suburban to remote settings'.¹ We would like to share some ideas on this issue. There is no doubt that having a physician attend during the interhospital transfer is useful. Nevertheless, the decision to transfer has to be carefully considered.² In remote areas, there might be a limited number of physicians and it might not be possible for a physician to attend the patient transfer. In our setting, i.e. in a developing Asian country, it is usually not possible to have a physician attend during the interhospital transfer in remote areas. Generally, nurses play this role. In

a worst case scenario, the facilities for transfer of patients are limited and the ambulance is sometimes lacking. To overcome the problem, a good plan for implementing a good transfer system is required. Training of specific personnel in the transfer process might be a good management tool for the lack of facilities and workload of medical personnel in remote areas in a developing country.

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