Transferring a patient is a risk. How do you mitigate that risk? West Michigan Air Care provides safe, rapid transport with care at the highest level, so critical care begins when we arrive. When it comes to out-of-hospital time between critical care units, Air Care also cannot be beaten. Consider average air transport times to Kalamazoo from the following communities as compared to average ground transport times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Community</th>
<th>Air Transport Minutes</th>
<th>Ground Transport Minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coldwater</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaton Rapids</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsdale</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowagiac</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paw Paw</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Joseph</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Haven</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturgis</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Rivers</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Air Care continuously reevaluates how to make patient transports safer and faster. The availability of a helipad at a community hospital can greatly contribute to patient outcomes by shortening out-of-hospital times and rapidly providing departments with skilled assistance.

Did You Know?
When a patient is being flown into Kalamazoo, Air Traffic Control clears a path for Air Care. We have priority over other air traffic due to “life guard” status.

References:
1. http://www.annalsofintensivecare.com/content/3/1/10
2. Air Transport minutes based on true air speed of 172.5 mph (150 knots), most direct VFR route, with time added for take-off and landing.
4. No hospital helipad. Airport LZ with ground leg necessary. Times reflect transfers from nearest airport.
Air Care transfers many ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) patients each year, and as Debra Wiseman observed, her husband’s recent transport was very quick thanks to the rapid activation of Air Care by the staff of Three Rivers Emergency Department within two minutes of reading his ECG. Faster times to reperfusion (cath lab) mean less opportunity for adverse events like hypotension and lethal arrhythmias. Along the way two critical care flight nurses provide twice the skilled hands and many years of experience to control pain and rapidly react to keep the patient stable. This is a major advantage over sending any critical patient by ground with one paramedic.

Debra M. Wiseman, RN BSN MSHA
Emergency Department Unit Supervisor
Borgess Lee Memorial Hospital, Dowagiac

On Sunday, September 29th (2013) my husband Jay Wiseman, a Fire Chief from West Bloomfield Township (out in Oakland County) experienced a STEMI while visiting in the Three Rivers area. I took him to Three Rivers Hospital and within two minutes of seeing the EKG, Air Care was contacted for transport. Jay was flown to Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo for an emergent cath, angioplasty and stent. The team there opened his 100% [blocked] left lateral circumflex artery in 69 minutes, and I commend your team that flew him to BMC! He made it through and is now a “rural record” for door-to-balloon! He is well and doing fine, going back to work next week. Again, please make sure that the team knows that they helped to save another one!

Photo Submissions

We see you out there taking pictures of us as we land and take off. Have a great photo of us on your phone? Email it to photo@aircare.org. If we use it in print, you’ll get a free hat and T-shirt. We’re looking for great photos of our aircraft on the ground or in the air, but we’re also looking for photos of mixed personnel working on scene, especially with our aircraft and your rigs in the background.
Behind the Scenes
In Air Care’s Communication Center

You’ll find over 100 years of experience in Air Care’s Communication staff. Not only do they provide logistic and communication support on patient transports, they also provide MedCom services for all of Kalamazoo County and manage EM Systems for Michigan’s Fifth District.

You Talkin’ to Me?
Our Communication Specialist team has experience totaling more than 100 years!

Steve
30 years

Terry
28 years

Beth
23 years

Mike
21 years

Craig
9 years

Years ago, Air Care’s Communications Specialists used time and distance reports to estimate our aircraft’s position.

Today, our Communications Specialists use sophisticated software with GPS input to track Air Care’s position.

1. "Medcom" is the medical radio and telephone system through which emergency medical service personnel consult with and receive orders from on-line medical control.
**WHOOSH Watch**

**Danger: High Winds on Take-off and Landing**

Dust, snow, gravel, debris, or just plain wind can be dangerous when Air Care is landing or departing. Close vehicle and ambulance doors, secure loose objects in truck beds and dumpsters, and avoid setting up landing zones (LZs) next to ongoing patient care. Medical First Responders near the LZ should wear their helmets and put their face shields down.

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**Inside:**
The West Michigan Air Care Mobile Website – Take Us With You on Your Phone!

[AirCare.org/mobile](http://AirCare.org/mobile)

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Find electronic copies of AirWaves at our website: [www.AirCare.org](http://www.AirCare.org)

Please email comments to AirWaves Editor and Flight Nurse Dawn Johnston at dmjohnston@aircare.org.

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[www.facebook.com/WestMichAirCare](http://www.facebook.com/WestMichAirCare)