

NUMBER: STAF 7.05  
SECTION: Student Affairs and Academic Support  
SUBJECT: Emergency Health Care and Emergency Transportation  
DATE: June 1, 1992  
REVISED: October 20, 2016  
Policy for: Columbia Campus  
Procedure for: Columbia Campus  
Authorized by: Vice President for Student Affairs  
Issued by: Student Health Services

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## I. Policy

Other than providing stabilization efforts while awaiting County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Student Health Services does not provide emergency medical services. The University of South Carolina looks to the Columbia healthcare community to provide access to emergency medical services. Community service providers are activated to appropriately respond to on-campus requests for emergency medical services. Payment of charges for emergency medical care is the responsibility of the student, faculty or staff member. Payment is expected at time of services. Student Health Services will provide assistance to students and other campus offices as deemed necessary and appropriate.

## II. Procedures

### A. Scope and Sources of Services

1. Student Health Services (SHS) provides primary care and/or ambulatory health services which include the treatment of minor injuries, acute illness, mental health and management of disease during scheduled operating hours. The Student Health Center (hereinafter referred to as health center) does not offer emergency care or any transport / ambulance services. Services are not provided when the Student Health Services facilities are closed. Information regarding care is posted at the health center's entrance and on SHS's web-site at <https://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/afterhours/>.
2. Emergency medical services are available at local hospitals. In the event of serious injury or illness, the Richland County 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) can be called at any time to provide on-site treatment and ambulance transportation to community treatment facilities.

### B. Payment of Emergency Health Care Charges

1. Students are responsible for payment of all charges for emergency transportation and medical treatment, including transportation and treatment for injuries occurring on or off campus.
2. Students initially treated at the health center who must be transferred to a local hospital or specialty provider are responsible for payment of all applicable Student Health Services charges, as well as the charges for the transfer and treatment by community providers.

C. On-Campus Emergency Procedures

1. As a general rule, in cases of injury or sudden illness occurring on campus, the following may apply:
  - a. When the Student Health Center is open during fall/spring semesters:
    - i. Conscious and ambulatory individuals should be escorted to the health center for evaluation, treatment, and possible transfer to community health care facilities. If escorting the individual to the health center seems risky, might cause the individual pain or further injury, or on-site evaluation by medical personnel is deemed prudent, call the Campus Police Dispatcher at 911 and request assistance.
    - ii. If the individual is unconscious or non-ambulatory, call 911 and request Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Stay with the individual until assistance arrives.
  - b. When the Student Health Center is closed:
    - i. Call 911 and request medical assistance. If the individual is located in a residence hall, also notify the on-duty Resident Mentor (RM) or Residence Hall Director (RHD) of the situation.
    - ii. Stay with the individual until assistance arrives.
    - iii. Refer to afterhours care located on SHS's web-site at <https://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/afterhours/>.
2. The above procedures should not be construed as prohibiting or otherwise limiting to any student or other individual from choosing to go to a community emergency provider or directly contacting Richland County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or other providers of choice when the

student or other individual determines health care services are necessary or desirable.

3. When calling 911 for assistance, please be prepared to give necessary information to the operator including the individual's exact location. This may require the exact street address for the building in which the individual is located.

### III. Reason for Revision

Policy updated to reflect current practice and procedure.