

Acuity Definitions and Crew Competencies

SCHEDULE ONE

Private ambulance services are regulated by Health Protection and Licensing Services, SA Health, on behalf of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. The acuity definitions and crew requirements in Schedule One apply to private operators who hold a restricted (non-emergency) ambulance service licence under Section 58 of the *Health Care Act 2008*.

Acuity Definitions

All patients must be assessed by an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Registered Nurse, AHPRA Registered Medical Practitioner or AHPRA Registered Paramedic to determine the appropriate acuity level prior to transport. **Patients who do not meet these definitions, have a life-threatening illness/injury and/or require time critical medical intervention, should be referred to South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS) by calling 000.**

Table 1: Patient Acuity Definitions

Low	Medium	High
<p>The low acuity patient has an illness or injury that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may require monitoring during transportation • does not require active treatment during transportation • has low potential for deterioration in transit • does not pose a safety risk to crew or other patients 	<p>The medium acuity patient has an illness or injury that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may require active monitoring, treatment, management, or intervention during transportation • requires specialised equipment for monitoring • does not pose a safety risk to crew or other patients • is haemodynamically stable • has low potential for deterioration in transit • requires observation and monitoring of an intravenous infusion that does not contain any vasoactive agent 	<p>The high acuity patient has an illness or injury that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requires active management or intervention during transportation • does not pose a safety risk to crew or other patients • requires one or more of the following— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ cardiorespiratory support ○ a higher level of care than required for a medium acuity patient ○ observation and monitoring of an intravenous infusion that contains a vasoactive agent

Crewing of Private Ambulance Vehicles

The following crew requirements ensure that safe and appropriate clinical care can be provided to control and reduce risks associated with: `

- Non-emergency patient transportation in South Australia
- Injuries that occur at community events and industrial sites which require a non-emergency medical response

The crew must include:

- A driver responsible for driving, who may be required to assist the attendant
- An attendant who clinically monitors the patient; and may be required to relieve the driver

Crew Competencies

The qualifications and training of the crew determine the level of patient acuity that can be transported. **ALL** crew must be trained in:

Approved by: Executive Director, Health Protection and Licensing Services on 23 March 2023



OFFICIAL

- Basic life support (incl. annual refresher)
- Manual handling
- Infection control
- Operation of all equipment used to provide non-emergency patient transport services by the Service, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the equipment

Table 2: ATTENDANT minimum qualifications and patient acuity levels

Qualifications and Training	Max. Patient Acuity	Operational Environment
Certificate III in Basic Health Care HLT31220 or equivalent	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intra-site patient transportation for assessment and determination of acuity • Remote mine sites, where an established medical centre or emergency response team is not present
Certificate IV in Health Care (Ambulance) HLT41120 or equivalent Diploma in Emergency Health Care HLT51020 or equivalent	Medium	As for low acuity and the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events • Remote mine sites • Industrial sites • Metropolitan patient transportation • Long distance patient transportation in rural and remote areas • Inter-site patient transportation
AHPRA Registered Nurse AHPRA Registered Paramedic AHPRA Registered Medical Practitioner	High	As for low and medium acuity .

Table 3: DRIVER minimum qualifications and patient acuity levels

Qualifications and Training	Max. Patient Acuity	Operational Environment
Completed site specific driver and first aid training	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote mine sites, where an established medical centre or emergency response team is not present
Certificate III in Basic Health Care HLT31220 or equivalent Certificate III in Patient Transport HLT31120 or equivalent	Medium	As for low acuity and the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intra-site patient transportation for assessment and determination of acuity • Community events • Remote mine sites • Industrial sites • Metropolitan patient transportation • Long distance patient transportation in rural and remote areas • Inter-site patient transportation
Certificate IV in Health care (Ambulance) HLT41120 or equivalent Diploma in Emergency Health Care HLT51020 or equivalent AHPRA Registered Nurse AHPRA Registered Paramedic AHPRA Registered Medical Practitioner	High	As for low and medium acuity .