

Syllabus	
Topic	Interhospital transfer

You are asked to transfer a 38 year old patient with an acute extradural haematoma from the district general hospital (DGH) you are working in to the tertiary neurosurgical centre.

**a)**  
What are the 4 different categories (or reasons for) an interhospital transfer. (4 marks)

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

**b)**  
List 5 general factors that determine whether to transfer by land or air? (5 marks)

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

**c)**  
Name 4 environmental issues with helicopter transfer each paired with a potential hazard it may cause? (4 marks)

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

**d)**

List 2 specific features of a specialised patient transfer trolley that reduce the risk to staff during a land ambulance transfer? (2 marks)

1. ....

2. ....

**e)**

What 2 factors determine the use of blue lights and who is ultimately responsible for this decision? (3 marks)

1. ....

2. ....

Responsible for decision: .....

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Q	Answer	Mark	Guidance
a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist support or investigations e.g. neurosurgery, cardiothoracics.</li> <li>• Particular type of organ support e.g. RRT</li> <li>• Repatriation – closer to home</li> <li>• Lack of critical care beds locally</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	
b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distance / geography</li> <li>• Availability of mode of transport and mobilisation times</li> <li>• Weather</li> <li>• Patient factors- urgency.</li> <li>• Air Transport contraindications – pneumothorax, combative</li> <li>• Staff availability and training</li> <li>• Cost</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>mark</p> <p>for</p> <p>each</p> <p>(Max. 5)</p>	Any specific urgent medical conditions accepted.
c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atmospheric pressure – expansion of gas in closed cavity (e.g. pneumothorax tensioning, decompression sickness)</li> <li>• Turbulence – N&amp;V / aspiration</li> <li>• Temp/humidity- increased dehydration</li> <li>• Noise – communication, audible alarms not noticed, ear damage</li> <li>• Vibration – impaired monitoring – sats and BP. N&amp;V</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>mark</p> <p>for</p> <p>each</p> <p>(Max. 4)</p>	<p>Also accept worsening hypoxia if unintubated.</p> <p>Risk of both hypothermia and hyperthermia/dehydration in different situations.</p>
d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient restraints e.g. multipoint harness</li> <li>• Equipment restraints e.g. ventilator, oxygen, pumps all mounted on transfer trolley</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p>	
e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congestion / Traffic</li> <li>• Urgency of transfer / patient condition.</li> <li>• Decision: ambulance driver</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	Clinical team made advice on urgency but ultimately decision of ambulance driver.

References:

1) AAGBI Safety Guideline. Inter-hospital transfer (2009)