



**NORTHERN IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE
HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION**

DID YOU KNOW?

CARRIAGE OF BAGS AND PERSONAL ITEMS ON AMBULANCES

NIAS has advised all hospitals of the following:

“Ambulance transport is a specialist service provided only to those patients who have been assessed on medical grounds as having a need for it.

The transportation of numerous bags of patient’s property when dealing with discharges, transfers and admissions is unsafe. Ambulance vehicles are not designed to store such items safely and carrying them constitutes a risk to patients, escorts and ambulance personnel. Such baggage limits access to patients who may require specialist care en-route.

The Ambulance Service recommend that only one small item of baggage (hand luggage) should accompany the patient on the ambulance.

The Ambulance Service’s priority is for the safe transportation and care of patients.

When making arrangements for transfer or discharge, alternative arrangements must be made for the removal of other items of baggage or personal effects. Ambulance staff will no longer transport additional baggage”.

It is in the best interest of the patients that ambulance staff should at all times be courteous and sensitive to the needs of the patient when applying this policy. We would seek your assistance in insuring that this process is trouble free.

Should you encounter any difficulties in the implementation of this policy please advise you’re Station Officer, your local health and safety representative, or any member of the Health and Safety Committee.

Implementation Date: 31 October 2000