



## Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer	2-4-45.2
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 4	Guide Signs – Conventional
SUBJECT 45.2	Emergency Medical Care Signing Policy

### A. Purpose

The purpose of emergency medical services signing is to provide direction for the motorist to the closest emergency medical care facility or hospital. The [2009 MUTCD, Section 2I.02](#) allows the usage of emergency medical care signing to facilities other than hospitals provided they meet certain criteria. The [2009 MUTCD](#) also encourages states to develop guidelines for the usage of the Emergency Medical Services Sign. The Emergency Medical Care sign (D9-13C sign or E10-63 or E10-64 sign) provides direction to designated facilities other than hospitals that provide 24-hour emergency care.

Signs (Standard sign D9-13C with appropriate arrow or E10-63 or E10-64 sign) will be furnished and maintained by the Department on the state trunk highway system (if the state trunk highway does not lead directly past the emergency care facility) for emergency medical care facilities that meet the criteria specified in Section B of this policy. When a highway bypasses a municipality that has a qualifying emergency medical care facility, the Department will erect signs at appropriate locations on the bypass where motorists can best be directed into the municipality to the emergency medical care facility.

Signs and trailblazers on connecting streets and on local streets will not be furnished, erected, or maintained by the Department. At that point any further trailblazing is the responsibility of the local unit of government having maintenance jurisdiction over the highway carrying the route to the emergency medical care facility.

Signs *may* be erected only after being authorized by the Bureau of Traffic Operations, when the criteria in the following guidelines are met.

### B. Policy

The following are guidelines for emergency medical care facility signing:

1. A sign *may* be warranted for a public or private emergency medical care facility which has continuous emergency care capability as defined by the American Medical Association (AMA) and which is AMA Board Certified. Attached to the policy is a listing of emergency medical care facilities that are Board Certified by the AMA. Emergency

Medical Care facilities included on this list *may* be signed provided they meet the rest of the criteria outlined in this policy.

2. The following criteria **shall** be used to determine if an Emergency Medical Care facility qualifies for signing:
  - a. Continuous 24-hour, 7 days per week emergency care capability.
  - b. Emergency department facilities with a physician trained in emergency medical procedures on duty (or emergency care nurse on duty within the emergency department with a physician on call).
  - c. Board certified by the American Medical Association and a licensed medical care facility by the State of Wisconsin.
  - d. Equipped for radio voice communications with ambulances and other hospitals.
3. A sign *may* be warranted on a freeway when the emergency medical care facility is within a community contiguous to or near the freeway, or not more than 15 miles from the freeway.
4. A sign *may* also be warranted on a major highway which is not a freeway but which bypasses a community having a qualifying emergency medical care facility.
5. On a freeway or other highway that bypasses a community having an emergency medical care facility, a sign will be erected:
  - a. Only at the point or points giving access to the most direct route to the facility.
  - b. Only once for traffic in each direction on a given highway.
6. Emergency Medical Care signs *should not* be erected on the same State Trunk Highway within the same community having a qualifying hospital that is already signed. An exception can be made if the emergency medical care facility is closer to the state trunk highway as described in Item 8.
7. Signs and trailblazers *may* be erected and maintained on the State Trunk Highway System by the Department but not until after trailblazer signs on local roads and streets have been erected.
8. If a new hospital is signed on the same highway in a community that has emergency medical care facility signing, the existing emergency medical care facility signs **shall** be removed. An exception can be made if the emergency medical care facility is closer than the hospital at the same intersection or interchange. In this case, both facilities could be signed.
9. The name of the emergency care facility will not be utilized on the signing unless there is more than one facility on the route, each of which appears on the list of approved emergency medical care facilities, and each of which is approximately the same distance from the point at which the routes to the facilities diverge. The emergency medical care facility name sign will be utilized only at that divergence point, and not with other trailblazers between the beginning of the signed route and the point of divergence, nor between the point of divergence and the emergency medical care facility itself.

The Department will remove signs from the state trunk highways when notified that a facility does not meet the criteria for an Emergency Care Facility, and are not included on the attached list.

**Summary of AMA Board Certified Emergency Medical Care Facilities**

Updated October 2015

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
St. Mary's Care Center	Reiner Rd.	Sun Prairie	SW	
Mercy Hospital and Trauma Center	3400 Deerfield Dr	Janesville	SW	
Pro Health Care	240 Maple Ave	Mukwonago	SE	