

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION</b> STAF Student Affairs and Academic Support		<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> STAF 7.05
<b>POLICY TITLE</b> Emergency Health Care and Emergency Transportation		
<b>SCOPE OF POLICY</b> USC Columbia		<b>DATE OF REVISION</b> May 15, 2025
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b> Vice President for Student Affairs		<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</b> Health and Wellbeing

## **PURPOSE**

The University of South Carolina looks to the Columbia healthcare community to provide access to emergency medical services. Student Health and Well-Being does not provide emergency medical services.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

In the event of a medical emergency on campus, established community emergency service providers will be activated to respond. Any costs associated with emergency medical treatment are the sole responsibility of the individual receiving care (student, faculty, or staff member). Student Health and Well-Being will offer support and guidance to students and collaborate with other university departments as needed and appropriate in emergency situations.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **A. Scope and Sources of Services**

1. Student Health 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 website at [Student Health and Well-Being - Student Health and Well-Being | University of South Carolina](#).
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 all charges due to emergency transportation and medical 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 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:
    - 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 Assistant (RA) or Residence Life Coordinator (RLC) of the situation.
    - ii. Stay with the individual until assistance arrives.
    - iii. Refer to afterhours care located on SHS's web-site at [Student Health and Well-Being - Student Health and Well-Being | University of South Carolina](#).
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.

### HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
June 1, 1992	New policy approval

October 20, 2016	Policy updated to reflect current practices and procedure.
May 15, 2025	Revalidation with no substantive change