TALs
Transportation Assistance Level Classifications
CHCANYS EM Program

Our Goal: To support New York FQHCs in efforts to meet federal (HRSA) and State requirements related to Emergency Management (EM) and to increase their level of preparedness and ability to actively respond to an emergency or disaster.

The CHCANYS EM Program Provides:
• Training and Technical Assistance
• Tools, Templates, and Resources
• Relationship-building Opportunities
New York State Department of Health
Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP)

CHCANYS has partnered with OHEP to provide health centers with information and assistance to support situational awareness and planning initiatives which promote system-wide preparedness and response capabilities.
2015 Critical Asset Survey

In March 2015, CHCANYS distributed the annual Critical Asset Survey to collect information on health center operations and ongoing EM activities from health centers across New York State.
Purpose

• To provide an overview of the Transportation Assistance Levels (TALs) Classifications

• To review the history of TALs and the obstacles presented

• To present the TALs standards for planned evacuations

• To detail the TALs assessment scale
Learning Objectives

At the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

• Explain how the TALs classifications can be used to facilitate planned evacuations

• Categorize the transportation needs of patients/residents according to the TALs classifications

• Identify additional training and resource needs to implement TALs within their facilities
Transportation Needs
Background

In August of 2010, concerns with TALs were brought to the attention of New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP).

In the following months, OHEP and the NYSDOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) began looking into the concerns raised regarding the TALs classifications.

OHEP and BEMS concluded that there was a potential for “color confusion” because of the similarity of the EMS SMART Tags and the TALs.
Color Confusion

EMS SMART Tags

For triage prior to transport

**RED** – Priority 1 - Urgent

**YELLOW** – Priority 2 - Less urgent

**GREEN** – Priority 3 – Ambulatory & no urgency

TALs

To assess transportation needs

**RED** – Must be transported supine may be critical - 3

**YELLOW** – Non-ambulatory & able to sit for a long period – (w/c) - 2

**GREEN** – Able to walk unassisted with no risk of harm - 1
Finding a Solution

A workgroup was formed with the goal of establishing a practical, standardized statewide TAL classification system to help streamline and coordinate evacuations statewide.

The workgroup consisted of representatives from:

• NYS Bureau of EMS
• New York State Office of Emergency Management
• New York State Office of Health Systems Management
• New York State Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP)
• Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)
Transportation Assistance Levels (TALs)

TALs categorizes patients / residents via one of three levels.

Each level influences:
- the number of staff necessary to move the person
- the type of internal movement device needed
- the loading area they will be relocated to for a facility evacuation
- the type of external transportation asset required

TALs *are not* intended for clinical triage
TALs *are* intended for triaging transportation needs
More about TALs

- TALs are a standard process established for quickly assessing and categorizing patients / residents by mobility levels.
- TALs are used to assess the type of transportation resources needed during a planned evacuation.
- TALs are not intended for use during an emergent situation such as fire or bomb threat.
2012 Superstorm Sandy

Midtown Tunnel

Queens

Battery Park Tunnel

Breezy Point
# Transportation Assistance Level 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Non-Ambulatory</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals unable to travel in a sitting position (e.g. require stretcher transport).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These patients/residents are clinically unable to be moved in a seated position, and may require equipment including but not limited to oxygen, mechanical ventilators, cardiac monitors, or other biomedical devices to accompany them during movement.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | Require clinical observation ranging from intermittent to 1:1 nursing. Critical cases or interrupted procedures may require a team of health care providers |
| | Requires an ambulance or other specialized vehicle (e.g., helicopter medevac) for transport dependent on circumstance (e.g. high water) |
| | Must be accompanied by one or more clinical provider(s) (e.g. EMT, paramedic, nurse, or physician) appropriate to their condition |
# Transportation Assistance Level 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>Wheelchair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals who cannot walk on their own but are able to sit for an extended period of time.</td>
<td>Safely managed by a single non-clinical staff member or healthcare facility-designated person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Those who are alert but unable to walk due to physical or medical condition. They are stable, without any likelihood of resulting harm or impairment from wheelchair transport or prolonged periods of sitting, and do not require attached medical equipment or medical gas other than oxygen, a maintenance intravenous infusion, an indwelling catheter or a PEG tube during their relocation or evacuation.</td>
<td>May be transported as a group in a wheelchair appropriate vehicle (e.g., medical transport van or ambulette)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A single staff member or healthcare facility-designated person appropriate to the most acute patient/resident’s condition while accompanying a group of patients/residents.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Transportation Assistance Level 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Ambulatory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Escorted by staff members, but may be moved in groups led by a single non-clinical staff member or healthcare facility-designated person. The optimum staff-to-patient ratio is 1:5. Can be transported as a larger group in a passenger vehicle (e.g., bus, transport van, or private auto). A single staff member appropriate to the most acute patient/resident’s condition while accompanying a group of patients/residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individuals who are able to walk on their own at a reasonable pace.

Those who are able to walk the distance from their in-patient location to the designated relocation or loading area without physical assistance, little supervision, and without any likelihood of resulting harm or impairment.
TALs Re-cap

- TALs are for use only during a staged or planned evacuation and **not** an emergent situation.
- TALs are a universally recognized, standardized classification system to help streamline and coordinate evacuations statewide.
The following TALs documents are available on the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS):

- TALs Tracking form
- TALs Guidance Document
- TALs Label Template
- NYSDOH TALs Slides
To access the TALs documents on the HCS:

Select My Content
Select Documents by Group
Select Resources
After selecting Resources select Health Care group and then Preparedness.
Finally select Transportation Assistance Levels (TALs)
Additional NYSDOH Resources

New York State Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters Systems
NYS e-FINDS
(http://nysandyhelp.ny.gov/e-FINDS)

On June 5, 2013, Governor Cuomo announced plans for NYS to launch a statewide emergency location tracking system to ensure the safety of patients and residents when healthcare and human services facilities are forced to evacuate as a result of a natural disaster.
NYS e-FINDS

- is a common platform for real time sharing of patient / resident location information by Health Commerce System (HCS) authorized users statewide

- allows facilities to track patient / resident movement by the use of bar-coded patient / resident wristbands read via a handheld scanner and a paper log
For more information on TALs, e-FINDS or other emergency management topics, please contact CHCANYS EM Team at:

EMTeam@CHCANYS.org