Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines related to the distribution of responses for ambulances assigned to hospital operations. There will always be variations that the shift supervisor will need to take into consideration and make adjustments as necessary. This policy should be used as a baseline for ambulance deployment decisions by the EMS Supervisor.

There are two primary hospital ambulances staffed at the Critical Care Paramedic Level 24 hours per day.

**Ambulance 123:** This ambulance is based out of Iowa Methodist Medical Center downtown. The primary function of 123 is to handle Pediatric and Neonatal Transports. As possible, this ambulance should remain at Methodist downtown to facilitate a more rapid response for the teams. In addition, this ambulance will be the primary ambulance on transports **out of the Methodist Emergency Department** to Lutheran, Broadlawns, Mercy Franklin, and Mercy Medical Center and to nursing, hospice facilities or residents within the city limits of **Des Moines**. The exception to this would involve bariatric patients that may take an extended transport time which will be handled by ambulance 233. In addition, Ambulance 123 will be the primary ambulance transporting patients from Lutheran ED or ICU to Methodist. Ambulance 123 will also respond as the primary ambulance for hospital transfers to the East and Southeast such as Newton, Grinnell, Marshalltown, Pella, Ottumwa etc...

**Ambulance 233:** This ambulance is based out of Methodist West Hospital. The primary function of 233 is to handle any transports out of Methodist West along with all scheduled transfers from the other UnityPoint-Des Moines Hospitals. In addition, 233 will handle any transfers outside the City of Des Moines. They also handle any transfers out of Methodist that are not ED based. Ambulance 233 will also be the primary backup for City of West Des Moines 911 calls.
**30 Mile Radius:** The 30 mile radius rule will be in effect if we have one ambulance out of town on a routine transfer. If we have one ambulance on a pediatric or neonate transfer or a transfer from an outlying hospital to a UnityPoint – Des Moines Facility (through One-Call) then the 30 mile radius rule will not apply.

**Neonate/Pediatric Transports:** Priority will be given to pediatric and neonate team trips if the patient is not already loaded. This includes if we are already out on a peds or neonate transport.

Attached is a scenario based guide.