

# LCGH Hospital Transport Environment

CGR presented the report “Emergency Medical Services in Lewis County: Overview of the Current State and Preparing for the Future” on May 26, 2026 to the Lewis County Legislature General Services Committee and later that day to an open meeting attended by a number of EMS stakeholders. During the stakeholder meeting, there were several questions around the number of transports that originated at Lewis County General Hospital (LCGH) and the overall demand for service.

In the original report, CGR relied on information from interviews with LCGH staff that indicated that there were “40-50 transfers per month” originating from LCGH. However, transfers are only a portion of ambulance transports that originate from LCGH. In addition to transfers, there are hospital discharges. CGR reviewed data from all prehospital care reports for ambulance agencies headquartered in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties for any transport that originated at LCGH (7785 North State Street in Lowville). In addition, CGR received information directly from Marcellus Ambulance, LifeNet and Mercy Flight Central regarding their transports from LCGH. The combined data is shown below. It does not account for any transports taken by other ambulance companies outside the counties listed above. The transports from Carthage Rescue Squad are significantly higher in 2025 because the CT Scanner in Carthage was out of service for several weeks and patients were transported back and forth. Even with multiple data sources, it is possible that there are additional transfers that are missing from this table because the hospital used other agencies for interfacility transport, but we do not believe that this is a substantial number.

Agency	2024		2025	
Beaver Falls Fire Department, Inc	2	0%	2	0%
Canton Rescue Squad Inc	1	0%	0	0%
Carthage Area Rescue Squad	23	2%	166	20%
Guilfoyle Ambulance Service Inc.	1	0%	4	0%
JS Koster Hose Company Inc.	1	0%		0%
Lewis Co Search and Rescue, Inc.	861	91%	575	70%
Lyons Falls Fire Department		0%	1	0%
Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad	1	0%		0%
Turin Ambulance Inc NY	1	0%		0%
MAVES*	5	1%	38	5%
Life Net*	43	5%	33	4%
Mercy Flight Central*	4	0%	0	0%
<b>Total Transports from LCGH</b>	<b>943</b>		<b>819</b>	
<b>Avg. Transports per Month</b>	<b>79</b>		<b>68</b>	
* Data provided by the agency directly, not the central patient care database				

The following table shows LCGH’s hospital transfers and the data from the PCR database. This data supports the assertion that that **there are on average 64 transports out of the hospital per month** even excluding the months of October and November 2025 when there was a

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spike related to the scanner at Carthage being out of service and patients being transported back and forth.

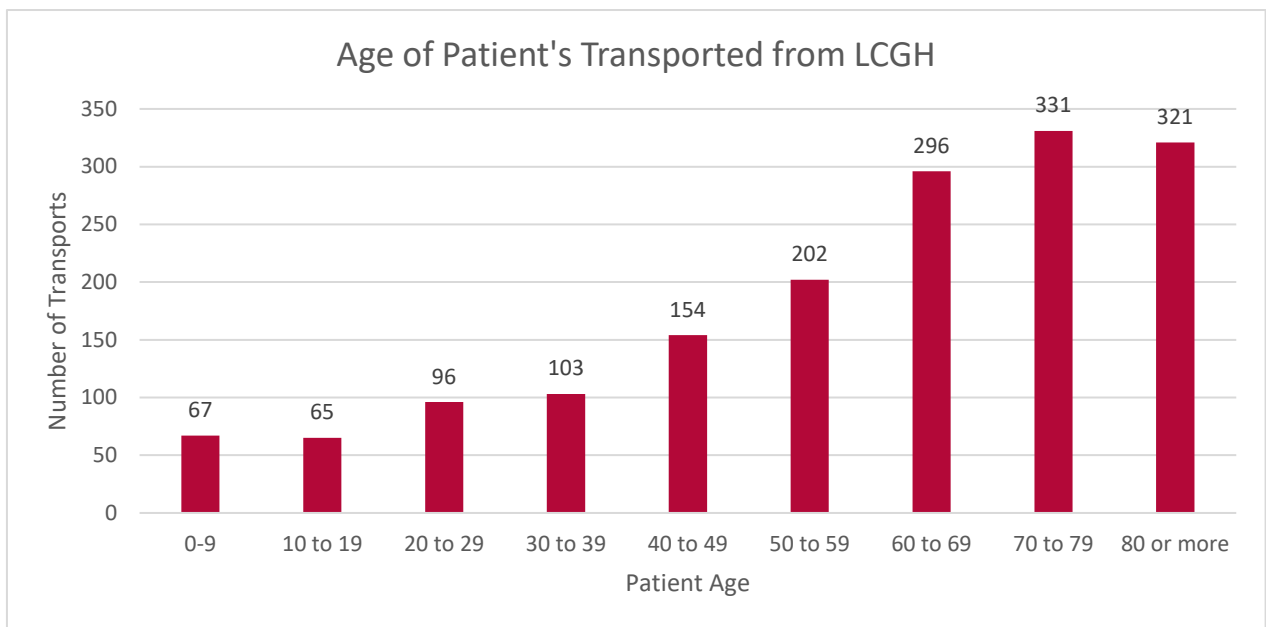
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Not Record	Grand Total
PCRs 2024	81	81	97	115	108	63	67	65	50	48	51	58	7	891
LCGH Transfers 2024	37	39	41	43	50	53	49	53	48	39	45	39		536
PCRs 2025	52	39	58	59	38	54	43	78	51	123	89	60	4	748
LCGH Transfers 2025	55	45	52	47	40	55	48	52	49	20	13	24		500

The table below shows the destinations and ambulance services for all of the transports that were from the PCR database. It does not include transports from ambulances outside the three-county region. **Wynn received 450 transports over the two years and SUNY Upstate had 356.** Together, these two hospitals received nearly half of the total transports. Nearly all of those transports were handled by LCSR. Carthage Hospital, Albany Medical Center, Crouse Hospital and Samaritan Medical Center each received nearly 100 transports or more.

	Albany Medical	Carthage Medical	Crouse Hospital	Bassett Hospital	Our Lady of Lourdes	Samaritan Medical	St. Josephs Hospital	Sunset Nursing	SUNY Univ.	SUNY-Community	Wynn Hospital	Other Locations	Grand Total
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>891</b>
Carthage Area Rescue Squad	3	16	0	0			0	0	1	1	1	1	23
Lewis Co Search and Rescue, Inc.	97	10	57	17	26	44	31	18	210	28	239	84	861
Other (Beaver Falls, Guilfoyle, Canton, Turin, Koster)	1	0	0	0			0	1	0	0		5	7
<b>2025 Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>748</b>
Carthage Area Rescue Squad, Inc.	9	155	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	166
Lewis Co Search and Rescue, Inc.	0	4	50	5		53	38	11	145	17	210	42	575
Other (Lyons Falls, Guilfoyle, Beaver Falls)	1	2	1	1			0	0	0	0		2	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1639</b>

On the table above, there is a noticeable drop in transports from LCGH to Albany Medical between the two years. Anecdotally, the demand for transfers did go down somewhat but there was still a significant need to be able to move patients effectively and those transports were handled by out of region ambulances such as Marcellus Ambulance Volunteer Emergency Service (MAVES). MAVES reported that they did 38 transports in 2025 from LCGH with 24 of them going to Albany area hospitals. Another large difference between the two years is the transports to Carthage Hospital. There were 155 in 2025 handled by Carthage Ambulance. The majority of those were related to transports to LCGH for the use of a scanner during a two-month period.

Of the patients transported from LCGH in 2024 and 2025, nearly 60% were greater than the age of 60.



According to interviews with hospital staff and county officials, there have been several instances of long wait times for LCSR to be available for interfacility hospital transports. There is no data available to demonstrate this point. However, it is an established fact that LCSR has told LCGH to contact other ambulance companies first for long-distance transports such as Albany Medical Center. This standing request has led to LCGH calling out-of-region ambulances such as MAVES to handle those transports. It can take an out-of-region ambulance an hour to come to the hospital to get the patients.

**Summary:** Ambulance transports originating at LCGH are an important part of the EMS system in the County. There are on average 1.4 transfers of a patient to another hospital each day according to hospital data and on average 2.25 overall transports each day for patients leaving the hospital according to regional PCR data. In addition, some transports are handled by agencies outside of the region indicating an even higher demand. LCSR handles the vast majority of interfacility transports, but other ambulance companies are regularly asked to transport patients long distances and on occasion for shorter distances.