



Institute of Medicine

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“The patient must be transported to the emergency department best prepared for his particular problem...Hospital emergency departments should be surveyed...to determine the numbers and types of emergency facilities necessary to provide optimal emergency treatment for the occupants of each region....Once the required numbers and types of treatment facilities have been determined, it may be necessary to lessen the requirements at some institutions, increase them in others, and even redistribute resources to support space, equipment, and personnel in the major emergency facilities. Until patient, ambulance driver, and hospital staff are in accord as to what the patient might reasonably expect and what the staff of an emergency facility can logically be expected to administer, and until effective transportation and adequate communication are provided to deliver casualties to proper facilities, our present levels of knowledge cannot be applied to optimal care and little reduction in mortality and/or lasting disability can be expected.”