

Policy: Loading and unloading patients from aircraft utilizing the LifeFlight Skyport.

Purpose: To provide guidelines for safely unloading and loading patients on the Skyport.

All aircraft shall unload their patient/s with the aircraft fully shut down. If the situation occurs where a patient is in extremis and the flight crew determines that a “hot” off-load is warranted, a special request must be made prior to landing to unload while the aircraft is running. The LifeFlight Communications Supervisor will be responsible for making the final decision regarding the appropriateness of unloading a patient while the aircraft rotor blades are turning. The on-board crew will be responsible for unloading the patient. If Vanderbilt LifeFlight crew members are available they will assist with unloading the patient. Otherwise, the on-board crew has sole responsibility.

At no time will the LifeFlight crew unload a patient during the aircraft shut-down process while the rotor blades are turning without the engines running. The rotor blades must come to a full stop prior to approaching the aircraft. We would also request that no other program unload a patient during this time where there is no control of the rotor blades.

When a visiting medical crew wishes to board their aircraft while the rotors are turning, LifeFlight Communications must be informed of their intentions. This should only occur in the situation where a pilot is returning from repositioning to pick up the crew.