UCSF Mission Bay Hospital Site

For your information: HELIPAD

Need for Helipad:

- UCSF Children’s Hospital provides a vast array of expert care from routine immunizations to the most advanced treatments for serious, life-threatening childhood diseases. This expertise is available to the children of San Francisco, and of California and beyond.
- Rapid access to this specialized level of care is vital when a child is critically ill or a baby is born with a devastating birth defect.
- Community hospitals are not able to provide the level of resources and numbers of pediatric specialists available at UCSF Children’s Hospital.
- A helipad at Mission Bay would provide more immediate access for the most critical of these children. Speeding the UCSF Transport Team to the bedside, or airlifting from a remote hospital will save many lives.

Use of Helicopter Transport:

- Helicopter access to UCSF Children’s Hospital will be limited to the most critical and life-threatening situations
- The types of patients that would require helicopter transport include:
  - A newborn with a life-threatening heart defect that requires immediate surgery to survive
  - A child with septic shock and organ failure who may die within hours
  - A pregnant woman with severe pre-eclampsia, threatening her life and the life of her baby
- Helicopter transport requires a physician’s approval before it is dispatched
- All patients with less serious conditions will be transported by ground ambulance or airplane ambulance for longer distances

Safety:

- The safety of our patients, our transport teams, and our community is our number one priority
- The UCSF Children’s Hospital Transport Program has an excellent safety record
- Distance, weather, and patient condition are the determining factors when deciding on the best mode of transport (air or ground)

Helipad Site Planning Principles: Helipad site planning for the UCSF hospital complex site is guided by a number of objectives, including the desire to minimize impacts on the community, and comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements. UCSF has sought to minimize the impact of helicopter flights on nearby residences by:

- Developing flight paths that are over San Francisco Bay to the extent possible
- Locating the helipad as far north as possible on the proposed Phase 1 hospital building

Alternative Helipad Locations: While UCSF still has a very strong preference for a helipad on the hospital site, in response to community concerns UCSF is also analyzing alternative sites for the helipad, including along the waterfront and at UCSF’s research campus. Locating the helipad off-site would require transporting the patient from the helipad to the hospital via ambulance, which would delay potentially life-saving medical treatment to the patient.
Flight Paths: The map below is from the 2004 UCSF Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Amendment #2 - Hospital Replacement Environmental Impact Report (EIR). These flight paths will need to be revised and moved farther south than shown here to reflect the current site plan, which is to locate the helipad in the middle of the site on the northern portion of the Phase 1 hospital building. The revised flight paths will require review for compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements regarding obstruction clearance.

Note: This drawing does not reflect the current site plan. Proposed flight paths will need to be adjusted and moved farther south.

Estimated Transports Per Day: The 2004 UCSF LRDP Amendment #2 - Hospital Replacement EIR analyzed a hospital helipad at the project site and assumed about three transports per day (a transport involves a landing and a takeoff, and is therefore two flights). Current information on actual projected use of the helipad is as follows:

- Projected Annual Transports: 500 per year
- Projected Monthly Transports: 40 per month
- Projected Daily Transports: 1.4 per day

(This is well within the average for other non-trauma center children’s hospitals, and includes neonatal, pediatric and maternal patients)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helicopter</th>
<th>Daily Average Arrival Times:</th>
<th>Monthly Average Arrival Times:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m. – 3 p.m.</td>
<td>0.58 per day (42%)</td>
<td>7 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 p.m. – 11 p.m.</td>
<td>0.55 per day (40%)</td>
<td>3 p.m. – 11 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 p.m. – 7 a.m.</td>
<td>0.25 per day (18%)</td>
<td>11 p.m. – 7 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Information contained in these pages is subject to change as more information becomes available.

Comments or Questions? Please contact Barbara Bagot-Lopez, Associate Director of Community Relations, at (415) 476-8318, or by e-mail at bblopez@cgr.ucsf.edu.
Helicopter Noise

- Conditions affecting noise: angle of descent, wind direction, cloud cover
- Estimated flight time from shoreline to pad (including hover time): 1 - 2 minutes
- Hover time estimate – 30 seconds
- Engine run time on helipad dependent on helicopter type
  - 30 seconds to 2 minutes after landing
  - 30 seconds to 2 minutes before takeoff
  - Engines off remainder of pad time
- California Public Utilities Code prohibits any city or municipality from limiting flight volume or times of day for helicopters to provide emergency services

Community Involvement

- UCSF will conduct as many community meetings as necessary to answer neighbors’ questions about the helipad
- Medical transport staff and pilots can participate in meetings with neighbors to answer questions and to discuss how other communities are managing their relationships with hospital helipads
- UCSF will work with the community to conduct a real-time helicopter test flight
- While UCSF has a strong preference for a helipad on the hospital site, UCSF will work with the community, Supervisor Maxwell, City departments, and the Port to identify alternative helipad locations

A helicopter will NOT be used for:

- Routine transport of stable patients
- Transport of patients from UCSF to other facilities
- Transport of staff, administrators or other non-patient related travel

Disaster Response:

- An established helipad and established protocols for its use in a disaster will benefit San Francisco and the greater Bay Area. These plans would be a vital part of the disaster response plan for UCSF Children’s Hospital, as well as for the City and County of San Francisco.

Approvals:

- San Francisco Board of Supervisors must approve the helipad before the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) - Aeronautics Division will consider UCSF’s application to construct and operate the helipad.
- UCSF is also required to obtain an FAA Airspace Determination to ensure that the proposed flight paths are clear of obstructions and meet dimensional requirements, prior to requesting approval by Caltrans.