

# MedFlight of Ohio

## Mobile Technologies

### Policies / Procedures / Protocols

#### Loading and Securing the Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump Patient into A Fixed Wing Aircraft

1. Prepare the patient to load.
  - Just prior to lifting the patient into the aircraft, disconnect the patient from the (Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump) IABP.
  - Place on STANDBY.
  - The DataScope System 97© has an automatic sleep mode feature and will hold settings in memory for 15 minutes.
2. Load the patient as quickly and safely as possible. The RN will stay with the patient on board the aircraft.
3. Load the IABP:
  - 3 people will lift the IABP by the bottom handles (not by the extension handle)
  - Orient the safety disc facing away from the aircraft.
  - With one person on each of the 3 sides, the IABP will be placed on the stairs half way up.
  - After the person next to the hand rail of the steps adjusts around the rail, the IABP is lifted into the aircraft
4. Reattach the patient to the IABP
  - Once the patient and pump are reattached, verify timing, settings, and initiate **AutoFill**.
  - Connect and zero the A-line.
  - Press **ASSIST/STANDBY** to resume pumping.
5. Slide the IABP into the cargo bin with the safety disc of the pump facing out to the aisle.
  - It is a tight fit. Strap the pump in with the isolette strap around the IABP and attach the strap to the cargo net.
  - Be careful not to restrict the safety disc and/or tubing.
  - Place the second isolette strap across the top of the IABP and also fasten this strap to the cargo net.
  - The pump should now be secure for take off.
6. Plug the IABP console into the wall outlet to conserve battery power for potential use.
7. In the auto fill mode, the system will automatically purge and fill the IAB when cabin atmospheric pressure decreases or increases by 25 or 50 mmHg respectively.
  - These pressure changes occur approximately every 1,000 feet of rise or 2,000 feet of drop in altitude.
  - The auto fill mode should be used during air transport.
  - If the auto fill mode cannot be used and the manual fill mode is required, a manual fill must be performed at the same intervals that an auto fill would occur (every 2000 feet of altitude change).
  - Chart / document the fill mode used.