

# Fixed-wing plane added to aircraft apparatus at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics





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**IOWA CITY, Iowa (KCRG)** - The Emergency Department at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City is now using a fixed-wing aircraft to transport patients who need to be treated for serious injuries.



It's Hawkeye black and gold, complete with a tiger hawk on the tail wing. The plane can travel up to 700 miles compared to a 125-mile radius for helicopters, according to a press release. It can also fly in weather that could ground helicopters.

Officials said the plane also has room for patients' families if they need to travel.



The airplane will be used at first to transport pediatric patients who need intensive care, such as premature infants.

"We've had a helicopter for 40 years but we noticed we can't go quite more than 150 miles," said University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Emergency Medicine Chairman Dr. Andrew Nugent. "There's times that we can't transport families, and there's sometimes weather that we can't go out in. "

The plane will be stationed out of the Iowa City Municipal Airport. From there, an ambulance would take patients to UIHC.

The plane joins the AirCare program which started transporting patients by helicopter in 1979.

"The plane is equipped with the same technology that is used in emergency departments, so our flight crews will be able to provide high-quality care wherever they go in Iowa and beyond," said Nugent.

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