

### **Halachic Guidelines for using a Car Service on Shabbos**

*The guidance below has been prepared by Rabbi N B Eckstein in response to queries received by Ezra Umarpeh. Users are always advised to seek guidance from their own Posek.*

#### **Using the phone to order a car:**

If the patient is at home and needs to go to Hospital they or their carer may make the telephone call to order the car service

If the patient has received Rabbinical permission to return home on Shabbos, a goy should be asked to make the call to order the car service

#### **Carrying to and from a car:**

All items to be carried out of the building should be put into one bag. If all the items are required for Shabbos use they may be transported in more than one bag.

Ezra Umarpeh Shabbos car drivers have been instructed to carry the bag to and from the house or hospital. However, once inside the building the driver does not have to carry the bags.

Drivers are loath to carry babies because of insurance problems, and if there is no other goy around the parent/carer will have to do this.

To mitigate the issurim involved with carrying, one has two possibilities. Either the baby should be carried by way of handing over from one person to the next, including taking out of the car and entering the private domain from the public domain. Alternatively the person carrying should stop and start after each 6ft, and the transfer between domains should be done with two people. Each transfer is a separate issur, so even if one started from hospital on one's own, if when one returns home another person is available, the transfer should be done by both.

#### **Opening and closing car doors:**

Ezra Umarpeh Shabbos car drivers have been instructed to open and close the car doors, as there are Issurei Shabbos involved. However once the door has been opened, it is permissible to open it a little wider.

#### **Making additional stops:**

If a car is being shared with other passengers who have a heter to return home, then there is no problem for the driver to make as many stops as necessary.

#### **Yichud:**

There are no yichud problems whilst using the car service for the local hospitals.