

TITLE: Establishment of Service Areas for Trauma Centers

APPROVED: _____
Executive Director

Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2004
SUPERSEDES: _____
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ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE AREAS FOR TRAUMA CENTERS

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798.162, 1798.163
California Code of Regulations Section 100255.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Service area" means that geographic area defined by the local EMS agency in its trauma care system plan as the area served by a designated trauma center.
- B. "Trauma Center" or "designated trauma center" means a licensed hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, which has been designated as a Level I, II, III, or IV trauma center and/or Level I or II pediatric trauma center by the local EMS agency, in accordance with California Trauma Care System Regulations.

III. PURPOSE

To establish service areas for trauma centers serving the Mountain Valley EMS system.

IV. POLICY

- A. To provide optimal care for major trauma patients, care will be regionalized through the designation of Level II trauma centers and preferential triage of major trauma patients to those centers. In addition, Level III and Level IV trauma centers will be designated for care of patients who are distant from the Level II trauma centers or whose clinical condition does not require the higher level of care.
- B. Pediatric patients (<14 y.o.) meeting pediatric triage criteria (Policy 553.25) who are within 45 minutes by ground or air to a pediatric trauma center (e.g., UC Davis, Children's Hospital of Oakland, or Children's Hospital of Central California) will be transported directly to the pediatric trauma center. Children in extremis or without a stable airway will be transported to the closest hospital.
- C. Patients meeting triage criteria (Policy 553.25) who are within forty-five (45) minutes (by ground ambulance) of a Level II trauma center or who are closer to a Level II trauma center than to a Level III or Level IV center, shall be transported directly to

the Level II trauma center, in accordance with Policy #553.25(F).

- D. Patients meeting triage criteria (Policy 553.25) who are transported by air ambulance shall be transported to the appropriate Level II trauma center In accordance with Policy #553.25(F).
- E. Patients meeting triage criteria (Policy 553.25) who are greater than forty-five (45) minutes (by ground ambulance) of a Level II trauma center, shall be transported to the closest accessible Level III or Level IV trauma center.
- F. While the closest Level II trauma center (for ground ambulances) and the rotational schedule (for air ambulances) is the preferred procedure for determining the appropriate receiving facility, efforts should be made to avoid overwhelming an single facility. In the event of simultaneous multiple patients or other factors resulting in potential diversion, patient flow shall be conducted in accordance with Policy #571.00.