

TITLE: AMBULANCE TRANSFERS

APPROVED: _____
Executive Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/14/2002

SUPERSEDES: _____

REVISED: _____

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Medical Director

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AMBULANCE TRANSFER POLICY

I. AUTHORITY

In accordance with Section 179.172 of Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code, the local EMS agency will establish guidelines and standards for completion and operation of formal transfer agreements between hospitals and ambulance providers. These guidelines shall include provision for associated logistics for transfer, evaluation and monitoring of the patient.

II. DEFINITIONS

Acute Care Facility- A hospital authorized to receive emergency patients.

Ambulance Transfer - The scheduled or prearranged transport of a patient determined to be a non Medical Emergency patient.

Attending Physician - The physician responsible for the care of the patient.

Direct Admission -

1. The Attending Physician has performed a physical assessment and provided written orders.
2. The receiving hospital has accepted the patient for a Direct Admission.

EMTALA the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act - Previously known as COBRA, this act contains three distinct requirements. First, the hospital must provide every patient seeking medical care, a medical screening to determine whether the patient has an emergency medical condition (or active labor). Second, if an emergency medical condition exists, the hospital must stabilize the condition. Third, following compliance with several statutory requirements, the hospital may transfer a patient with an emergency medical condition to another hospital.

Medical Emergency - The term used to denote a condition or situation in which an individual has a need for immediate medical attention, or where the potential for such need is perceived by public safety personnel or Emergency Medical Personnel at the scene of an emergency or dispatch personnel at an Authorized EMS Dispatch Center.

III. PURPOSE

To provide direction for hospital and prehospital personnel involved in an Ambulance Transfer.

IV. POLICY

A. Transfers which are a Direct Admission From Acute Care Facilities

1. The transferring hospital shall comply with all EMTALA documentation and destination requirements prior to the transfer of the patient to another facility.
2. The destination of Patients being transferred from an Acute Care Facility shall not be directed by the DCF., regardless of MCI or System Saturation status.

B. Transfers which are a Direct Admission From non-Acute Care Facilities

1. All personnel shall follow all documentation and destination requirement processes to ensure that patient care is ensured.
2. The destination of Patients meeting the definition of Direct Admission shall not be directed by the DCF., regardless of MCI or System Saturation status.

C. Transfers which are from a location, other than Acute Care Facilities:

1. Ambulance crews shall endeavor to follow Attending Physician requests for patient destinations.
2. During an MCI or while under System Saturation, the ambulance crew shall contact the DCF for patient destinations.

V. PROCEDURE

A. For Transfers which are a Direct Admission, Ambulance Personnel shall:

1. Determine whether the patient meets Direct Admission criteria
2. Contact the Receiving Facility en route to notify them of the ETA, unless
3. During MCI or System Saturation, contact the Receiving Facility by telephone or through the EMS Dispatch Agency of the ETA.

B. For Transfers which are not Direct Admissions, Ambulance Personnel shall:

1. Contact the Receiving Facility en route to notify them of the ETA, unless
2. During MCI or System Saturation, contact the DCF for Patient Destination.