

TITLE: Coordination with HMOS and other managed care organizations

APPROVED: _____
Executive Director

Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2004
SUPERSEDES: _____
REVISED: _____
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COORDINATION WITH HMOS AND OTHER MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS

I. **AUTHORITY:**

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

II. **DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Health maintenance organization" (HMO) means an organization authorized under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975
- 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 promote patient flow in a manner than meets patients clinical needs while considering the economic impact of patient flow decisions.

IV. **POLICY**

- A. The Mountain-Valley EMS Agency trauma triage policy (Policy #553.25) does not consider the patient's insurance status in determining the destination of patients who meet the triage criteria. Since patients who require trauma center level services may not require this level once they have been stabilized, trauma centers should consider the need to return patients who are insured by health maintenance and other managed health care organizations to their payer's network at a medically appropriate time.
- B. Trauma centers shall make a good faith effort to negotiate agreements with health maintenance and other managed health care organizations regarding payment, repatriation of patients, and other related factors.
- C. Trauma centers shall cooperate with health maintenance and other managed health

care organizations in their efforts to identify the appropriate level of care for their members, including non-emergency treatment and the location of services provided.

- D. Nothing in this policy is intended to suggest that trauma centers should limit the treatment provided to members of health maintenance and other managed health care organizations in violation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, other state or federal law, or good medical practice.