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## Section 3.16 Receipt of Out-of-County Patients

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### 3.16.1 Procedures for Accepting Out-of-County Patients

The Medical-Health Operations Coordinator (MHOAC) and the San Francisco Health Officer are the only authorized individuals to make the final determination of whether or not to accept patients that are evacuated through the California Medical Mutual Aid System. Staff in other City departments must refer to the MHOAC any requests from another California county or the State involving receiving evacuated patients.

The Region 2 RDMHC will first contact the San Francisco MHOAC to brief him/her on the number and types of out-of-county patients needing care. The MHOAC will work with the DEC or, if activated, EOC's Public Health & Medical Services Group, to determine the number of available medical facility beds. Every effort will be made to accommodate the request. However, the MHOAC and Health Officer will weigh the supply of available beds against the current local demands for those resources and only accept out-of-county patients if San Francisco medical facilities can reasonably accommodate additional patients while continuing to meet local demands for medical resources.

### 3.16.2 Organization for Receipt of Out-of-County Patients

The number and types of incoming patients will determine the local organizational structure for accepting and managing their distribution:

1. For a small number of patients, the MHOAC may request that the sending facility directly contact the local receiving facility to initiate a transfer process.
2. For larger numbers of patients, the MHOAC may request a limited activation of the EOC's Public Health & Medical Services Group to serve as the single-point-of-contact for the RDMHC. The MHOAC may also request a limited citywide EOC activation of other sections or branches to support the receipt of out-of-county patients.
3. For significant events in other counties that necessitate sending large numbers of patients to San Francisco, the MHOAC in consultation with the Dept of Emergency Management will fully activate:
  - Emergency Operations Center
  - DPH DOC and other relevant departmental DOCs
  - Hospital Command centers

If large numbers of patients are being airlifted into San Francisco, the MHOAC will follow the same procedures for mass medical evacuations to out-of-county destinations identified in Section 3.13 to receive the patients. When *receiving* patients evacuated by air, the medical



facility at the landing site is called the **Casualty Receiving Point**. The MHOAC will also work with local ambulance providers to secure transportation to in-county hospital destinations from the landing site.

## Section 3.17 Medical Mutual Aid Resources

Many medical assets are available within San Francisco and should be accessed first before activating California's Medical Mutual Aid System, unless it has been determined by direct patient care providers (field or hospital) that an out-of-county asset may provide a better patient outcome or if it is determined that local resources are exhausted/overwhelmed. Options for medical mutual aid resources or responses within include:

### Patient Transportation

- Ground – Ambulances; alternative transport (Muni buses for green patients able to tolerate sitting upright)
- Air Ambulances
- Strike Teams or Task Forces

### Supplies and Equipment

- Medical Supplies Caches and Equipment Trailers
- Specialized Equipment

### Treatment Areas

- Portable or Mobile Facilities
- Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Pharmaceuticals

### Personnel

- ALS or BLS Personnel
- Californian Medical Assistance Teams (Cal-MAT – state)
- Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT - federal)
- Medical and Nursing Personnel affiliated with Medical Volunteer Registries
- Mission Support Teams provide administrative, logistical, and liaison support.

Non-medical supplies lists may be found through the citywide EOC's Logistics Section.

The MHOAC maintains a Medical & Health Special Resources guide. The San Francisco Department of Public Health Emergency Operations Manual also contains a list of other available medical and health resources. The DPH list does not include equipment and supplies that may be available from individual medical providers within San Francisco such as private hospitals.