



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Emergency Medical Services Agency

POLICY #460.00

TITLE: **PREHOSPITAL RENDEZVOUS**

APPROVED: ON-FILE

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ON-FILE

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/2018

REVISION DATE: New Policy

REVIEW DATE: 02/2021

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Authority: California Administrative Code, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to define when to appropriately rendezvous when caring for a prehospital patient.

Policy: Rendezvous with an ALS unit or first responders can be an effective method of delivering care to the critically ill or injured patients; however, travel time or patient destination make it impractical in some situations. The following protocol should be utilized by EMS personnel when considering a rendezvous.

I. WHEN TO CONSIDER RENDEZVOUS:

- A. Anytime the patient has suffered a cardiac arrest and transport time to the hospital exceeds 10 minutes.
- B. Anytime the patient is critically ill and the transport time is prolonged (greater than 20 minutes) and in your judgment a Paramedic would be of assistance.
- C. Additional staff may be necessary for care of patient (i.e., first responder).

II. WHEN NOT TO CONSIDER A RENDEZVOUS:

- A. When total transport time is 10 minutes or less to the hospital.
- B. When it becomes apparent that the location of the rendezvous will be within ten (10) minutes of the hospital.

III. HOW TO RENDEZVOUS

- A. Contact the ambulance dispatch center as soon as possible to request a rendezvous. If possible, make the request while preparing the patient for transport as opposed to waiting until you are already transporting.
- B. The transporting unit should not wait at the scene for a rendezvous.

- C. The transporting unit should not wait at the agreed site of a rendezvous if you have a critical patient. If the vehicle you are rendezvousing with is not there, proceed to the hospital Code 3 (red lights/siren).
- D. Allow the ambulance dispatch center to coordinate the rendezvous, or briefly communicate directly with each the rendezvous unit.
- E. When the rendezvous occurs, the Paramedics, with their equipment, should join the patient in the back of the ambulance already transporting the patient. There should be no more than a 1 to 2 minute delay in total rendezvous time. Good pre-rendezvous communications through the ambulance dispatch center is essential as it allows the Paramedics to prepare the proper equipment for transfer into the transporting unit. In other words, the Paramedics should not stop at the roadside to treat the patient unless:
 - 1. The patient is in full cardiac arrest.
 - 2. There is specific base hospital direction to stop at the roadside and treat the patient.

This protocol was developed to assist BLS personnel in the difficult judgment decision of when to consider a prehospital rendezvous.