



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Emergency Medical Services Agency**

POLICY #300.00

TITLE: **CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING AND BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT**

APPROVED: ON-FILE

EMS Administration: James Clark, MICP

ON-FILE

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

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to define criteria for receiving and base hospital contact when caring for a prehospital patient.

**Policy:** Prehospital personnel shall contact a Base Hospital as appropriate for treatment instructions and medical consultation.

**Procedure:**

- A. ALS personnel shall contact an appropriate Base Hospital in accordance with EMS Policy and Paramedic Field Treatment Protocols.
- B. Prehospital personnel shall contact an appropriate Base Hospital for any patient who refuses medical care or transportation and meets one or more of the following criteria (see Patient Refusal of Care or Transportation Screening Form (attached)):
  1. All patients under the age of 18 with no parent, guardian or conservator on scene;
  2. Any barrier to communication (i.e., language, deaf, unreliable interpreter, etc.);
  3. All patients with symptomatic psychiatric illness;
  4. All patients who are not competent due to alcohol or drug use;
  5. All patients with a Glasgow Coma Score less than 15 (or, in patients whose GCS is less than 15, any decrease from the patient's normal GCS);
  6. All patients where the EMT or Paramedic has concern or question about the patient or patient's parent/guardian/conservator's competency.
- C. All prehospital personnel (EMT or Paramedic) shall contact the appropriate Base Hospital for any patient whose destination is to a facility other than an acute care hospital outside of Merced County.

- D. EMTs and Paramedics in Merced County shall contact the hospital that they are transporting the patient to. If Base Hospital contact is required, EMS Personnel shall contact the Base Hospital. The Base Hospital will notify the receiving facility.
- E. Multi-Casualty Incident - Base Hospital contact shall be made as soon as possible as outlined in EMS Policy #810.00.
- F. Special Circumstances – EMTs and Paramedics shall utilize the appropriate Base Hospital according to the following special circumstances:
  - 1. Base Hospital Unavailable - If the EMT or Paramedic is unable to contact the Base Hospital, after two reasonable attempts, utilizing all available resources (i.e., radio, telephone), and is unable to reach, the EMT or Paramedic shall treat according to radio failure protocols. If this occurs a Merced County EMS Incident Report shall be generated and turned in within 72 hours.
  - 2. When selecting a Refusal of Medical Care and/or Transportation (RMCT), the EMT or Paramedic should determine the appropriate Patient Refusal of Care or Transportation Screening Form (See Attached).