



**Department of Public Health
Emergency Medical Services Agency**

John Volanti, M.P.H.
Director of Public Health

James Andrews, M.D.

260 E. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 381-1250
(209) 381-1259 Fax
www.co.merced.ca.us/health/ems

Policy #: 403.00
Effective Date: 03/15/09
Revision Date:
Review Date: 02/2010

This policy supersedes any other existing policy on this subject.

Equal Opportunity Employer

- Subject:** Patient Management for Inmates – United States Penitentiary, Atwater
- Authority:** California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.220 and 1798
- Purpose:** To establish the special procedures and patient management guidelines for responding to and transporting inmates from the maximum security penitentiary in Atwater.
- Policy:**
1. The staff and administration at the United States Penitentiary, Atwater (USPA) have established special procedures to be followed in the management of inmates to ensure the safety of both the penitentiary staff and the public. To that end, specific response and transportation procedures have been established herein which shall be adhered to so as to provide for the security and safety of all concerned.
 2. The procedures established below shall apply to those inmates incarcerated within the maximum security facility at the USPA. Usual and customary treatment protocols and policies shall apply to all staff of USPA as well as those inmates at the minimum security facility at USPA, as directed by USPA staff.
 3. All crew members responding to USPA shall have a minimum of a driver's license and an EMS Agency photo certification or accreditation card out and available for inspection by any USPA staff requesting such ID.
 4. Ambulance crews should anticipate delays to patient access due to security requirements of the maximum security facility. This delay will be increased, consistent with the current Federal Threat Level.
 5. Ambulances requested for USPA will proceed directly to the USPA main entrance where they will be met and directed by facility staff. Crew shall follow all directions given by USPA staff.
- Procedure:**
1. Transport of Inmates from the Maximum Security Facility
 - A. Inmates at the Maximum Security Facility shall not be flown by helicopter under any circumstances. All patients transported from this facility shall be transported by ground ambulance, with a lead vehicle, chase vehicle and armed guard riding with the patient, as provided by USPA staff.
 - B. Paramedics shall, in consultation with USPA staff, consider driving inmates from the Maximum Security Facility that meet trauma triage criteria directly to a trauma

APPROVED:

On-File

John Volanti, MPH
Director of Public Health

James Andrews, MD
EMS Medical Director

center. Contact the Base Hospital for destination, per Trauma Triage Policy No. 512.25.

- C. All other patients not meeting trauma triage criteria, as well as medical patients, shall be transported to Mercy Medical Center Merced for evaluation.

2. Security During Transport

- A. Security of USPA Inmates is the responsibility of the USPA Correctional Officers, and their direction regarding the type and manner of restraint or conduct around the inmate shall be adhered to strictly. Any communication with the patient shall be for the purpose of necessary medical history or solicitation of complaint or follow-up only.
- B. The paramedic should inquire regarding access to arms and/or the antecubital area if the need for IV access is deemed likely, as restraint to the gurney may be necessary and may need to be established prior to departure.