



PATIENT DESTINATION

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for determining the appropriate destination of patients transported within the Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency (YEMSA) Region. It is the intent of this policy to ensure, to the extent possible, that individual patients receive appropriate medical care while protecting the interests of the community-at-large by making maximum use of available emergency medical care resources.

AUTHORITY

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 2, §§ 1797.67, 1797.88
Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 6, Article 1, § 179.106 (b)
Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 6, Article 2.5, § 1798.165
Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 6, Article 3, § 1798.170
California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 2, Chapter 5, Article 1, § 1105 (c)
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Article 7, § 100169
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7, Article 1, § 100243

POLICY

- I. Determination of patient destination shall be governed by California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 2, Chapter 5, Article 1, § 1105 (c):

GUIDELINES

- I. "Most Accessible Facility" - shall ordinarily be the nearest licensed health facility that maintains and operates a basic Emergency Department (ED), except for:
 - A. Base Hospital Direction:
 1. The Base Hospital may direct that the patient be transported to a further acute care hospital equipped, staffed, and prepared to receive emergency cases that in the judgment of the Base Hospital Physician, is more appropriate to the medical needs of the patient. Such direction shall take into consideration the Paramedic Provider Agency's stated and reasonable time and/or travel limitations.
 - B. Designated Special Care Facilities
 1. YEMSA protocols governing transport of special category patients to designated special care facilities should be followed.
- II. "Decisive Factors to the Contrary" include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - A. Patient Requests
 1. When a person or their legally authorized representative requests emergency transportation to a hospital other than the most accessible acute care hospital, the request should be honored when the Base Hospital determines that the condition of the patient permits such transport; except



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when the Paramedic Provider Agency determines that such transport would unreasonably remove the transport unit from the area. In such cases:

- a. Arrangements shall be made for alternative transport appropriate to the medical needs of the patient.
- b. If such transport cannot be obtained without delay, the patient may be transported to the nearest hospital capable of treating him or her.

B. Prepaid Health Plans

1. A member of a group practice prepayment healthcare service plan should be transported to a hospital that contracts with the plan when the Base Hospital determines that the condition of the member permits such transport. However, when the Paramedic Provider Agency determines that such transport would unreasonably remove the transport unit from the area, the member may be transported to the nearest hospital capable of treating the member. (Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 6, Article 1, § 179.106 [b]).

C. Private Physician's Request

1. When a private Physician requests emergency transportation to a hospital other than the most accessible acute care hospital, the request should be honored unless:
 - a. The Base Hospital determines that the condition of the patient does not permit such transport. In such cases, Base Hospital directions shall be followed. If communication with the requesting Physician is feasible, the Base Hospital should contact the Physician and explain the situation to him or her.
 - b. The Paramedic Provider Agency determines that such transportation would unreasonably remove the unit from the area. In such cases:
 - i. Arrangements should be made for alternate transportation appropriate to the medical needs of the patient.
 - ii. If alternate transportation cannot be arranged without unacceptable delay, and the private Physician is immediately accessible, the patient may be transported to a mutually agreed-upon alternate destination.
 - iii. If alternate transportation cannot be arranged without unacceptable delay, and the private Physician is not immediately accessible, the patient should be transported to the nearest hospital capable of treating him or her.

D. "Specialty" Patients

1. ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Patients
2. Acute Cerebrovascular Accident (Stroke)
3. Trauma