



San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency



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Policy Memorandum 2008-01

DATE: January 22, 2008

TO: Emergency Ambulance Providers
ALS First Response Providers

FROM: Richard N. Buys, M.D., Medical Director
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SUBJ.: EMS Policy No. 5719, Acute Coronary Syndrome

EMS Policy No. 5719, Acute Coronary Syndrome directs advanced life support prehospital providers to perform a 12-lead ECG when the equipment is available in the prehospital setting to perform this skill. Additionally, this policy directs prehospital providers to ensure that early notification is made to the receiving hospital when an acute ST segment myocardial infarction (STEMI) is detected by the ECG machine.

It is the expectation of the EMS Agency that all approved advanced life support transport providers ensure that San Joaquin County paramedic personnel have been trained to perform this skill.

All patients who present with signs and symptoms of acute coronary syndrome (ACS), tachycardia or both shall receive a 12 lead ECG. In the event that the ECG software reading indicates an acute MI (STEMI), prehospital personnel shall make immediate, early notification to the receiving hospital.

Patients who are experiencing an acute ST segment elevation MI should be transported to the closest, most appropriate receiving hospital. Presently, all San Joaquin County receiving hospitals are capable of providing emergent care for a patient with ACS, including those patients who are determined to be experiencing an acute myocardial infarction.

Questions regarding EMS Policy 5719 or the use of prehospital ECG technology should be directed to Anna Valdez, RN, PhD(c), EMS Quality Improvement/Trauma Coordinator at (209) 468-6818 or by email at avaldez@sjgov.org.