

**TITLE: MEDICAL PRIORITY DISPATCH SYSTEM RESPONSE AND  
MODE ASSIGNMENTS FOR CARDS 1-32**

EMS Policy No. 3202

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish approved Medical Priority Dispatch System response and mode assignments for use by authorized Emergency Medical Dispatch Centers.

**AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220 & 1798 et seq.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Ambulance" means an emergency advanced life support (ALS) ambulance.
- B. "Ambulance Provider" means an entity properly permitted to operate an emergency advanced life support ambulance service in San Joaquin County.
- C. "Code 2" means an emergency response without delay not requiring emergency lights and siren except as may be required for scene access.
- D. "Code 3" means an emergency response without delay using emergency lights and siren as appropriate for driving conditions.
- E. "EMS Agency" means the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency.
- F. "Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)" means a series of components that allow the dispatcher to triage calls, send appropriate resources with the appropriate response, and provide pre-arrival/post-dispatch instructions as needed.
- G. "Emergency Medical Response (EMR)" means a basic life support (BLS) or ALS non-transport vehicle operated by an EMR provider.
- H. "Emergency Medical Response Provider" or "First Response Provider" means an organization authorized by the EMS Agency to participate in the EMS system for the purpose of providing non-transport prehospital patient care.
- I. "Lifecom" means the EMD center operated by American Medical Response and designated as the EMS dispatch center for San Joaquin County.
- J. "MPDS" means the Medical Priority Dispatch System.
- K. "NAED" means the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch.

**POLICY:**

- I. EMD Centers shall dispatch EMS resources to medical emergencies and manage their response in accordance with the response levels and modes (Code 3 or Code 2) established by this policy.

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- II. Ambulance Provider and Emergency Medical Response Provider transport and non-transport resources shall comply with instructions from an authorized EMD Center to upgrade, cancel, or reduce their response mode.
- III. EMS Agency approved Medical Priority Dispatch System response and mode assignments for use by authorized Emergency Medical Dispatch Centers are as follows:

A. MPDS Cards 1-32 Level Echo, Delta, Charlie, and Bravo:

Card	Level	Response	Mode
1-32	Echo – life threatening	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
1-32	Delta – life threatening	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
1-32	Charlie – life threatening	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
1-8, 10-32	Bravo – unknown status, possibly dangerous	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
9	Bravo 9-B-1 a & f	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
9	Bravo 9-B-1 b, c, d, e, g	As requested by local law enforcement	

B. MPDS Cards 1-32 Level Alpha and Omega:

Card	Level	Response	Mode
1 Abdominal Pain	Alpha 1-A-1	Ambulance	Code 2
2 Allergies/Envenomations	Alpha 2-A-1 Alpha 2-A-2	Ambulance	Code 2
3 Animal Bites/Attacks	Alpha 3-A-1 Alpha 3-A-2 Alpha 3-A-3	Ambulance	Code 2
4 Assault	Alpha 4-A-1 Alpha 4-A-2	Ambulance	Code 2
5 Back Pain	Alpha 5-A-1	Ambulance	Code 2

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<b>Card</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Mode</b>
	Alpha 5-A-2		
7 Burns/Explosion	Alpha 7-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
7 Burns/Explosion	Alpha 7-A-2 Alpha 7-A-3	Ambulance	Code 2
8 Carbon Monoxide/Inhalation	Omega 8-Ω-1	EMR	Code 2
9 Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest	Omega 9-Ω-1x-y	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
10 Chest Pain	Alpha 10-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
11 Choking	Alpha 11-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
12 Convulsions/Seizures	Alpha 12-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
13 Diabetic Problems	Alpha 13-A-1	Ambulance	Code 2
14 Drowning/Diving/SCUBA	Alpha 14-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
16 Eye Problems/Injuries	Alpha 16-A-1 Alpha 16-A-2 Alpha 16-A-3	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
17 Falls	Alpha 17-A-1 Alpha 17-A-2	Ambulance	Code 2
17 Falls	Alpha 17-Ω-1	EMR	Code 2
18 Headaches	Alpha 18-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
19 Heart Problems	Alpha 19-A-1 Alpha 19-A-2	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
20 Heat/Cold Exposure	Alpha 20-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
21 Hemorrhage/Lacerations	Alpha 21-A-1-2	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
22 Inaccessible/Entrapment	Alpha 22-A-1	Ambulance	Code 2
23 Poisoning	Omega 23-Ω-1	As directed by California	

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<b>Card</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Mode</b>
		Poison Control	Center
24 Pregnancy/Childbirth/ Miscarriage	Alpha 24-A-1 Omega 24-Ω-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
25 Psychiatric/Behavioral	Alpha 25-A-1-2	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
26 Sick Person	Alpha 26-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
26 Sick Person	Alpha 26-A-2-8	Ambulance	Code 2
26 Sick Person	Alpha 26-A-9	EMR	Code 2
26 Sick Person	Alpha 26-A-10-28	Ambulance	Code 2
27 Stab/GSW/Penetrating	Alpha 27-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
28 Stroke	Alpha 28-A-1; Note: set L and G suffix codes to 2 hours	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
29 Transportation Accidents	Alpha 29-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 3
29 Transportation Accidents	Omega 29-Ω-1	As requested by local law enforcement	
30 Traumatic Injuries	Alpha 30-A-1-2	Ambulance EMR	Code 2
31 Unconscious/Fainting	Alpha 31-A-1	Ambulance EMR	Code 2

- C. Delta, Charlie, Bravo, and Alpha responses to Kaiser Medical Facilities with a physician on site do not require the dispatch of EMR resources unless these resources are requested by the Kaiser Medical Facility or the responding emergency ambulance.

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