

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to EMS personnel on determining the appropriate destination for medical patients.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220, 1798, and 1798.170

DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Base Hospital" and "Disaster Control Facility (DCF)" means San Joaquin General Hospital which is responsible for directing the prehospital care system in accordance with the policies and procedures of the EMS Agency.
- B. "Life Threatening Condition" means a patient with unmanageable airway, or uncontrolled bleeding, or rapidly deteriorating vital signs, or with CPR in progress.
- C. "Receiving Hospital" means a licensed general acute care hospital with a permit for basic or comprehensive emergency services.
- D. "STEMI Receiving Center" or "SRC" means a licensed acute care hospital with the capability to perform PCI which has satisfied the requirements for designation as set forth by the EMS Agency.
- E. "Unmanageable Airway" means a patient without the ability to manage their own airway, or a patient without an established BLS or ALS airway, or a patient being ventilated through a needle cricothyrotomy.

POLICY:

- I. Patients in the San Joaquin County EMS System shall be transported to an appropriately staffed and equipped emergency department of a licensed general acute care hospital.
- II. Priorities in determining transport destinations for medical patients :
 - A. Medical patients shall be transported to a receiving hospital based on the following priorities:
 1. Multi-casualty incident – destination based on DCF direction.
 2. Acute STEMI – closest STEMI Receiving Center.
 3. Life threatening condition – closest receiving hospital or base hospital direction.
 4. High Risk Obstetrical or Neonate – San Joaquin General Hospital or Doctors Medical Center, whichever is closest.
 5. Active labor with complications – closest hospital with labor and

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delivery (L&D) service.

6. Non-emergent condition – patient choice.
7. No preference specified – closest receiving hospital.

III. Parameters affecting transport destinations for medical patients:

A. Acute ST Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Patient Considerations:

1. Patients with signs and symptoms of an acute STEMI as specified in EMS Policy No. 5719 Chest Pain, shall be transported to a designated STEMI Receiving Center (SRC) by-passing all other receiving hospitals.
2. The following receiving hospitals are designated as SRCs for the San Joaquin County EMS System:
 - a. Dameron Hospital (pilot study only).
 - b. St. Joseph's Medical Center (pilot study only).
 - c. Doctors Medical Center (pilot study only).
 - d. Memorial Medical Center (pilot study only).
3. For the purpose of the current pilot study period the travel distance between Dameron Hospital and St. Joseph's Medical Center is determined to be inconsequential. If a STEMI patient expresses a preference the patient may be transported to either SRC in Stockton. The same patient preference applies to the choice between Doctors Medical Center and Memorial Medical Center.

B. High Risk Obstetrical or Neonate:

1. High Risk Obstetrical patients are patients without prenatal care or patients with an estimated pregnancy of 20 to 33 weeks.
2. High Risk Obstetrical with signs and symptoms of vaginal bleeding or active labor without complications shall be transported to San Joaquin General Hospital or Doctors Medical Center whichever is closest.
3. High Risk Neonatal patients are prehospital live births with an estimated gestational age of 20 to 33 weeks.
4. High Risk Neonatal patients shall be transported to San Joaquin General Hospital or Doctors Medical Center whichever is closest.

C. Active Labor Considerations:

1. Active labor without complications is deemed to be a non-emergent condition and these patients may be taken to the receiving hospital

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- with labor and delivery services (L&D) of their choice as listed in subparagraph D. 3.
2. Active labor with complications (prolapsed cord, breech presentation) shall be transported to the closest receiving hospital with L&D services.
 3. The following is a list of receiving hospitals with L&D services in San Joaquin County and in areas immediately adjacent to San Joaquin County:
 - a. Dameron Hospital.
 - b. Doctors Hospital of Manteca.
 - c. Lodi Memorial Hospital.
 - d. San Joaquin General Hospital.
 - e. St. Joseph's Medical Center.
 - f. Sutter-Tracy Community Hospital.
 - g. Kaiser Medical Center, Modesto.
 - h. Oak Valley District Hospital, Oakdale.
 - i. Doctors Medical Center, Modesto.
 - j. Memorial Medical Center, Modesto.

D. Non-Emergent Medical Patient Destination Considerations:

1. In a non-emergent situation, as determined by EMS personnel on scene or following base hospital consultation, the patient may be transported to the receiving hospital of their choice. If the patient is unable or unwilling to express a choice, defer to the wishes of the patient's private physician and/or family. In the absence of such direction, patients should be transported to the closest receiving hospital.
 - a. Whenever possible ambulance personnel should determine where the patient normally receives their medical care and encourage the patient to return to that hospital.
 - b. EMS personnel should only provide the patient and/or family with the available destination options. EMS personnel should not endorse a receiving facility or otherwise provide their personal opinion on the quality or merits of any receiving hospital.
 - c. If the patient is a member of a health plan with a preferred hospital an attempt should be made to transport the patient to a participating or preferred receiving hospital.
2. Non-emergent medical patients may choose to be transported to

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any of the following receiving hospitals in San Joaquin County:

- a. Dameron Hospital.
 - b. Doctors Hospital of Manteca.
 - c. Kaiser Hospital Manteca.
 - d. Lodi Memorial Hospital.
 - e. San Joaquin General Hospital.
 - f. St. Joseph's Medical Center.
 - g. Sutter-Tracy Community Hospital.
3. Non-emergent medical patients may choose to be transported to receiving hospitals outside of San Joaquin County as follows:
- a. From Ambulance Zone A (Lodi):
 - i. Methodist Hospital, Sacramento.
 - ii. Kaiser Medical Center South Sacramento.
 - b. From Ambulance Zones D (Manteca); E (Ripon); and F (Escalon):
 - i. Doctors Medical Center, Modesto.
 - ii. Kaiser Medical Center, Modesto.
 - iii. Memorial Medical Center, Modesto.
 - iv. Oak Valley District Hospital, Oakdale.

IV. Medical Multi-casualty Incidents:

- A. During a medical MCI the DCF may direct the transport of patients to receiving hospitals outside of San Joaquin County.

V. Hospital Diversion:

- A. Non-emergent patients shall not be transported to a receiving hospital with a facility status of diversion.
- B. Patients shall not be transported to a receiving hospital with a facility status of internal disaster/closed.
- C. Patients requiring specialty care services (e.g. STEMI, labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care) should not be transported to a receiving hospital with a facility status advising that such specialty services are unavailable. In such instances another receiving hospital offering such services should be utilized.

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Appendix A: EMS Policy No. 5201 Medical Patient Destination
 Ground Ambulance Estimate of Driving Time and Distance

Chrisman Road and Hwy 132 Southwest San Joaquin Co.	Sutter-Tracy 14 mins 9.5 miles	Kaiser Manteca 19 mins 18 miles	SJGH 22 mins 22 miles	DHM 25 mins 23 miles	Dameron 30 mins 28 miles	Kaiser Modesto 30 mins 24 miles
	SJMC 33 mins 28 miles	DMC 33 mins 25 miles	MMC 34 mins 26 miles	Emanuel Turlock 46 mins 36.5 miles	Lodi Memorial 47 mins 42 miles	Oak Valley 51 mins 37.5 miles
	Kaiser South Sac 71 mins 69 miles	UCDMC 75 mins 76 miles				
142 S. Stockton St. Ripon CA Ripon	Kaiser Modesto 8 mins 5.5 miles	DHM 9 mins 7 miles	DMC 13 mins 10	Kaiser Manteca 13 mins 10.5	MMC 14 mins 11 miles	SJGH 20 mins 19 miles
	Sutter-Tracy 24 mins 21 miles	Oak Valley 26 mins 18 miles	SJMC 28 mins 22 miles	Dameron 28 mins 23 miles	Emanuel Turlock 29 mins 24 miles	Lodi Memorial 37 mins 31.5 miles
	Kaiser South Sac 64 mins 57 miles	UCDMC 71 mins 64 miles				
Hwy 120 and McHenry Ave Escalon	Kaiser Modesto 12 mins 9 miles	DHM 15 mins 11 miles	DMC 15 mins 10 miles	MMC 16 mins 10 miles	Oak Valley 16 mins 10 miles	Kaiser Manteca 20 mins 16 miles
	SJGH 23 mins 18 miles	SJMC 31 mins 24 miles	Dameron 31 mins 24 miles	Sutter-Tracy 32 mins 27 miles	Emanuel Turlock 38 mins 28 miles	Lodi Memorial 41 mins 33.5 miles
	Kaiser South Sac 67 mins 58 miles	UCDMC 75 mins 66 miles				
Hwy 4 x Escalon-Bellotta Rd Farmington	SJMC 25 mins 19 miles	Dameron 25 mins 19 miles	Kaiser Modesto 25 mins 18.5 miles	Oak Valley 25 mins 18.5 miles	DHM 26 mins 21.5 miles	SJGH 27 mins 23 miles
	DMC 28 mins 18.5 miles	MMC 28 mins 19 miles	Kaiser Manteca 32 mins 26.5 miles	Lodi Memorial 35 mins 28 miles	Sutter-Tracy 44 mins 40 miles	Emanuel Turlock 48 mins 36 miles
	Kaiser South Sac 61 mins 53.5 miles	UCDMC 69 mins 60.5 miles				

Appendix A: EMS Policy No. 5201 Medical Patient Destination
 Ground Ambulance Estimate of Driving Time and Distance

I-5 and Highway 12 Flag City	Lodi Memorial 9 mins 6.5 miles	Dameron 18 mins 14.5 miles	SJGH 21 mins 19 miles	SJMC 22 mins 16.5 miles	Kaiser Manteca 31 mins 29.5 miles	DHM 32 mins 30 miles
	Kaiser South Sac 33 mins 30 miles	Methodist Hospital 33 mins 28.5 miles	Sutter-Tracy 37 mins 35 miles	Sutter General 37 mins 36.5 miles	UCDMC 38 mins 37.5 miles	Kaiser Modesto 43 mins 41 miles
	DMC 49 mins 45.5 miles	MMC 50 mins 46 miles				
Hwy 99 and Hwy 12 E Victor Rd, Lodi	Lodi Memorial 7 mins 4 miles	SJMC 17 mins 13 miles	Dameron 20 mins 14 miles	SJGH 24 mins 21 miles	Methodist Hospital 27 mins 25 miles	DHM 28 mins 25 miles
	Kaiser South Sac 29 mins 26.5 miles	Kaiser Manteca 31 mins 26.5	Sutter General 35 mins 33 miles	UCDMC 37 mins 33.5 miles	Kaiser Modesto 39 mins 35.5 miles	Sutter-Tracy 40 mins 36 miles
	DMC 45 mins 40 miles	MMC 46 mins 41 miles				