



San Joaquin County

Emergency Medical Services Agency



<http://www.sigov.org/ems>

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EMS POLICY UPDATE

DATE: December 18, 2015
TO: All Interested Parties
FROM: Rick Jones, MPA
SUBJ.: Policy Changes Effective January 1, 2016

The purpose of this memo is to provide notice of policy changes effective January 1, 2016. Please do not rely upon the summary of changes below as a complete description. Please take time to read all policies and become aware of all the changes. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Jones at (209) 468-6818 or by email at: rrjones@sigov.org.

New Policy

- EMS Policy No. 4981, Receiving Hospital Status. Provides direction for hospitals to effectively communicate their status using EMResource.

Updated Policies

- EMS Policy No. 2548, Needle Thoracostomy Performance Criteria. Now requires a 3.25 inch 10 gauge or 14 gauge thoracostomy needle and catheter. Specifies other procedure changes.
- EMS Policy No. 2560, Paramedic Scope of Practice. Revised to reflect movement of skills from optional to basic. Adds lorazepam for use during inter-facility transfers per transferring physician orders.
- EMS Policy No. 4701, Trauma System Management and General Provisions. Added clarification with respect to marketing and promotional plans of designated trauma centers.
- EMS Policy No. 4980, Receiving Hospital Diversion. Revised to prohibit hospital diversion of ambulances.
- EMS Policy No. 5201, Medical Patient Destination. Clarifies definition of "Unmanageable airway." Includes multiple clarifications and updates.

- EMS Policy No. 5215, Trauma Patient Destination. Provides direction for transporting trauma patients to the appropriate destination based upon receiving hospital status. Directs prehospital personnel to not transport patient by air ambulance if the transition of care to air ambulance will exceed (10) ten minutes.
- EMT Policy No. 5505, BLS Patient Assessment – Secondary Survey. Provides a definition of a complete set of vital signs.
- EMS Policy No. 5542, BLS Poisoning and Overdose. Added administration of naloxone by EMTs as a pilot project for approved providers.
- EMS Policy No. 5551, BLS Allergic Reaction – Anaphylaxis. Added the carrying and administration of Epinephrine Auto-Injector by EMTs as a pilot project for approved providers.
- EMS Policy No. 5783, ALS Adult Trauma Treatment. Provides new direction for fluid administration for the hypovolemic patient. Adds the performance of needle decompression for patients in traumatic arrest.