



# San Joaquin County

## Emergency Medical Services Agency



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### **Policy Memorandum No. 2006-02**

DATE: April 27, 2006

TO: All EMS Participants

FROM: Richard N. Buys, M.D., Medical Director  
Dan Burch, EMS Administrator

SUBJ.: Clearing of Patients in Custody

Effective immediately the San Joaquin County EMS Agency is ending the practice of advanced life support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) prehospital personnel performing medical screenings exams to medically clear suspects prior to transport of the suspect by law enforcement to jail.

Pre-hospital personnel are to continue to assess and treat all patients in accordance with EMS Agency policies and procedures including transport to an emergency department. If patients in custody refuse treatment, pre-hospital personnel should have the patient complete and sign an Against Medical Advice (AMA) release form. Patients that are in custody must meet the same requirements to be able to refuse treatment, (i.e., mentally competent, fully alert and oriented, etc.) If the patient is unable to sign the AMA form, due to being in custody, document that fact on the patient care report (PCR) and have the law enforcement witness the AMA form.

Law Enforcement may transport suspects requiring medical screening exams to the emergency department at San Joaquin General Hospital or if necessary to the closest appropriate emergency department.