

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TITLE: Authorization to Conduct Neonatal Transport

EMS Policy No. 4411

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process for authorizing ambulance and air ambulance services to provide specialty care interfacility transport for neonatal patients.

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.204; 1797.206; 1797.220; 1797.224; San Joaquin County Ordinance No. 4231, Title 4, Division 7, Section 4-7301.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Neonatal Transport" means the ambulance transport of a newborn or infant in a neonatal transport isolette from one hospital to another hospital for admission to a licensed neonatal intensive care unit.
- B. "SJCEMSA" means the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency.

POLICY:

- I. The transport of a neonatal patient from a hospital to a tertiary care hospital with a licensed neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and qualified neonatologists is a high risk low frequency event requiring specially trained personnel with specialized neonatal equipment.
- II. Authorization of Out County Ambulance and Air Ambulance Service Providers:
 - A. Advanced life support (ALS) ambulance and air ambulance service providers that have a valid permit to operate issued by another local emergency medical services agency (LEMSA) may perform neonatal transports originating from any transferring hospital in San Joaquin County if all of the following conditions are met:
 - 1. Register with SJCEMSA to conduct neonatal transport.
 - 2. Be approved to perform neonatal transport by another local EMS agency, or have an affiliation and transport agreement with a tertiary care level 3 (or higher) NICU.
 - 3. Maintain minimum staffing of one pilot or emergency medical technician driver; one neonatal register nurse attendant; and one paramedic attendant with specialized neonatal transport training.
 - a. One or both attendants may be employees of an affiliated tertiary care hospital.
 - 4. Have a neonatal transport isolette, medical air, and other specialized equipment required by the approving LEMSAs or

Effective: July 1, 2018

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Supersedes: n/a

Approved: Signature on file
Medical Director

Signature on file
EMS Administrator

- affiliated NICU.
- B. Out of county ambulance and air ambulance service providers shall submit copies of electronic patient care records meeting the most recent NEMSIS and CEMSIS standards to the San Joaquin County EMS Agency within 24 hours of completing a neonatal transport originating in San Joaquin County.
- III. Authorization of In County Ambulance and Air Ambulance Service Providers:
- A. Advanced life support (ALS) ambulance and air ambulance service providers that have a valid San Joaquin County permit may perform neonatal transports originating from any transferring hospital in San Joaquin County if all of the following conditions are met:
1. Register with the SJCEMSA to conduct neonatal transport.
 2. Have an affiliation and transport agreement with a tertiary care level 3 (or higher) neonatal intensive care unit.
 3. Maintain minimum staffing of one pilot or emergency medical technician driver; one neonatal register nurse attendant; and one paramedic attendant with specialized neonatal transport training.
 - a. One or both attendants may be employees of an affiliated tertiary care hospital.
 4. Have a neonatal transport isolette, medical air, and other specialized equipment required by the affiliated NICU.
 5. Submit a plan for approval that includes all of the following:
 - a. Training and education standards for neonatal transport personnel.
 - b. Program improvement and patient safety (PIPS).
 - c. Neonatal medical equipment.
 6. Be in compliance with all other SJCEMSA policies, protocols, and agreements.
- B. A regularly staffed and permitted basic life support (BLS) or ALS ambulance may be used to transport a patient to a tertiary care hospital for admission to a NICU, if the transferring physician determines that the benefits of immediate transport outweigh the risks associated with waiting for a neonatal staffed and equipped ambulance.
- IV. Registered neonatal ambulance and air ambulance service providers shall be listed on the SJCEMSA website.
- V. Except as authorized by this policy no ambulance or air ambulance service provider shall conduct neonatal transport in San Joaquin County.