

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to prohibit receiving hospitals from placing themselves on diversion or re-routing or attempting to re-route incoming ambulances to another receiving hospital.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220; & 1798 et seq

DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Diversion" means the closure of a hospital's emergency department from receiving ambulance patients including all specialty services.
- B. "Receiving Hospital" means a licensed acute care hospital with an emergency permit that is approved by the EMS Agency to receive ambulance patients.

POLICY:

- I. Receiving hospitals in San Joaquin County are prohibited from placing themselves on diversion or re-routing or attempting to re-route incoming ambulances to another receiving hospital.
- II. Receiving hospitals in San Joaquin County shall on a daily basis utilize the EMSResource™ regional communication system and continually maintain the receiving hospital's current emergency department status in accordance with EMS Policy No. 4981 Receiving Hospital Status.
- III. Accountability:
 - A. EMS agency staff may perform unannounced site visits to receiving hospitals to ensure compliance with this policy.

Effective: January 1, 2016
Supersedes: January 1, 2010

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Approved: Signature on file
Medical Director

Signature on file
EMS Administrator