

INLAND COUNTIES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY

515 N Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino CA 92415-0060
(909) 388-5823 Fax (909) 388-5825



October 24, 2008

TO: CEO, Each 9-1-1 Receiving Hospital
Each Emergency Department Director
Each Emergency Department Nurse Manager
Each ALS/BLS Provider

FROM: Virginia Hastings
Executive Director

Reza Vaezazizi, M.D.
Medical Director

RE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ELIMINATE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DIVERSION

This is to advise you that effective **January 5, 2009 at 0800**, ICEMA intends to eliminate the emergency department diversion category from Reference 14051, "San Bernardino County Hospital Diversion Policy." A revised 14051 will be implemented as an Emergency Policy shortly and will continue to allow **requests** to divert due to inoperable CT scanner and, for trauma hospitals, diversion to another designated trauma hospital only. Internal Disaster Diversion for physical plant breakdowns that affect the emergency department or patient services will continue; however, Internal Disaster Diversion may not be utilized for staffing issues.

As we begin to enter the traditional flu season, hospitals should be implementing strategies that address predictable overcrowding, including implementation of their surge plans. During the next weeks, ICEMA will be meeting with EMS providers and hospital representatives to discuss acceptable criteria for bed delay, including acceptable delay timeframes for 9-1-1 responders. We must all work together to ensure that our 9-1-1 response system is not crippled during this predictably heavy season.

Questions or comments may be directed to Virginia Hastings at the number noted above or vhastings@cao.sbcounty.gov.

VH/RV/jch

cc: Emergency Medical Services Committee
Hospital Association of Southern California
San Bernardino County Medical Society