Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

Serving San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono Counties

Virginia Hastings, Executive Director
Reza Vaezazizi, M.D., Medical Director

DATE: April 14, 2010

TO: San Bernardino County:
EMS Providers – ALS, BLS, EMS Aircraft
Hospital CEOs, ED Directors, Nurse Managers, PLNs
EMS Training Institutions, EMS CE Providers
San Bernardino County EMCC Members
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Virginia Hastings, ICEMA Executive Director
Reza Vaezazizi, M.D., ICEMA Medical Director

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION REFERENCE #8080

The attached emergency protocol establishes clear guidelines for EMS providers in the High Desert Area of San Bernardino County with regard to bed delay for transports to Desert Valley Hospital, St. Mary Medical Center and Victor Valley Community Hospital. Also included is a revised Table of Contents to update your ICEMA Protocol Manual.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

REFERENCE #8080, BED DELAY PATIENT DESTINATION POLICY
(San Bernardino County High Desert Area Only)

This is a new protocol to assist 9-1-1 providers in the High Desert to transport patients to the closest state licensed basic emergency department when system resources drop due to bed delay at a facility. This policy will supersede the consideration of patient request when forty percent (40%) or higher, of deployed ambulances in a specific geographic area are on bed delay. Patients meeting trauma or STEMI center destination criteria will continue to go to the designated facility. Base station destination direction will also be followed as per protocol Reference #5040, "Radio Communication Policy".

This emergency protocol will remain in effect for one hundred and twenty (120) days, following which it will be formally adopted after public comment is reviewed.

If you have questions regarding the implementation of this emergency protocol, please do not hesitate to contact Sherri Shimshy at (909) 388-5816 or SShimshy@cao.sbcounty.gov.

RV/VH/SS/mae

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BED DELAY PATIENT DESTINATION POLICY
(San Bernardino County High Desert Area Only)

PURPOSE

A responsibility of an EMS agency is to assure that emergency patients requesting emergency medical care through the 9-1-1 system receive assistance and transport as quickly as possible. This is accomplished in part by requiring response time standards for all 9-1-1 providers, public and private sectors. Bed delay is threatening timely responses to such calls in the High Desert.

ICEMA protocol currently allows 9-1-1 responders to consider patient request when such request will not take the ambulance out of the service area for an extended period of time and when the condition of the patient allows transport to other than the closest appropriate emergency department.

This policy is to ensure timely responses to 9-1-1 calls and sets forth destination policies for transport to Desert Valley Hospital, Victor Valley Community Hospital and St. Mary Medical Center when the 9-1-1 response system falls below a system status level that delays timely responses to 9-1-1 calls.

AUTHORITY

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4, Local EMS Agency, Section 1797.220 and Chapter 5, Medical Control, Section 1798.

DEFINITIONS

Bed Delay: Ambulance units are determined to be on bed delay if the patient has not been removed from the ambulance gurney within twenty-five (25) minutes of arrival at hospital.

High Desert: Exclusive Operation Areas 12, 17, 25 and 16 (excluding area south of intersection Highway 138 and Highway 2 and Wrightwood).

Deployed Ambulance Units: The number of ambulances assigned to provide service within a specific geographic area. This may vary based on provider's deployment plan.

System Status Level: The number of **available** ambulance units in a specific geographic area.

POLICY

1. When forty percent (40%), or higher, of deployed ambulance units in a specific geographic area are on bed delay with system status level four (4) or below, ambulance providers in the High Desert area shall transport patients to the **closest State licensed basic emergency department, EXCEPT UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

    a. Patient **meets trauma center destination criteria** (*"Trauma Triage Criteria and Destination Policy", Reference #15030*).

    b. Patient meets STEMI center destination criteria (*"STEMI Receiving Center Policy", Reference #6070*).

    c. Base station direction to other facility.

2. When advised by dispatchers that #1 above is not applicable, patient requests may be honored in accordance with *"Patient Refusal of Care or Other Patient Request", Reference #9100.*

3. The patient care record (e-PCR) will indicate transport to the closest emergency department when destination is determined in accordance with this policy (closest facility – critical bed delay).

4. ICEMA will review all patient care records where destination is determined based on this policy. If a provider does not submit patient care records utilizing the e-PCR, the provider must submit a copy of the patient care record to ICEMA within seventy-two (72) hours.

APPROVED

MD 04-14-10		4/14/10	
ICEMA Medical Director	Date	ICEMA Executive Director	Date

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		EFFECTIVE DATE
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1020	First Responder Certification Requirements	05/01/94
1030	EMT Certification Requirements	05/01/07
	- EMT-I Skills Competency Verification Form (EMSA-SCV 07/03)	04/01/05
1040	EMT-P Accreditation Requirements	11/01/04
1050	MICN Certification Requirements	01/01/07
1060	Certification/Accreditation Review	03/29/07
2000	**DATA COLLECTION**	
2010	Requirements for Patient Care Records	05/01/06
2120	Instructions for the 01A/F1612 Forms	04/30/09
	- 01A – Sample	02/01/09
	- F1612 Run Report Form – Sample	
3000	**EDUCATION**	
3010	Annual Review Class	04/01/05
3020	Continuing Education Provider Requirements	04/01/05
	- CE Class Roster Form	04/01/05
	- Monthly CE Class Roster Form	04/01/05
3030	EMT Continuing Education Requirements	04/01/05
4000	**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**	
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5000	**MISCELLANEOUS SYSTEM POLICIES**	
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5020	Base Hospital Selection Criteria Policy	07/15/00
5030	Procedure for the Adoption of Protocols and Policies	01/01/91
5040	Radio Communication Policy	05/01/06
5050	Medical Response to a Multi-Casualty Incident	01/01/10
5060	Multi-Casualty Incident Definitions	01/01/10
5070	Medical Response to a Haz-Mat Incident	04/01/07
5080	ICEMA Ambulance Rate Setting Policy - San Bernardino County	03/01/10
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7020	EMS Aircraft Standard Drug and Equipment List	03/01/10
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8020	Interfacility Transport – Nurse Staffed Units	05/01/06
8030	Burn Destination and Criteria	11/01/08
8040	Interfacility Transfer of STEMI Patients	11/06/09
8050	Transport of Patients (BLS)	02/01/92
8060	Diversion Policy – San Bernardino County	01/05/09
8070	Aircraft Destination Policy	04/01/07
8080	Bed Delay Patient Destination Policy (San Bernardino County High Desert Area Only)	**04/14/10**
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9000	**GENERAL PATIENT CARE POLICIES**	
9010	General Patient Guidelines	12/01/01
9020	Physician on Scene	11/01/04
9030	Responsibility for Patient Management	11/01/04
9040	Reporting Incidents of Suspected Abuse/Neglect	11/01/04
9050	Organ Donors	10/01/05
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9070	Applying Patient Restraints Guidelines	05/01/06
9080	Care of Minors in the Field	05/01/06
9090	Patient Refusal of Care Guidelines – Adult	05/01/06
9100	Patient Refusal of Care or Other Patient Requests	04/15/96
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10080	Insertion of Nasogastric/Orogastric Tube	01/01/10
10090	Vagal Maneuvers	01/01/10
10100	12 Lead Electrocardiography	03/01/10
10110	Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing	01/01/10
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10130	Automatic External Defibrillation (AED) - BLS	04/01/07
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10150	External Jugular Vein Access	01/01/10
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