



# Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

*Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties*

*Tom Lynch, EMS Administrator*

*Reza Vaezazizi, MD, Medical Director*

**DATE:** December 18, 2015

**TO:** Inyo County EMS Providers - ALS, LALS, BLS, EMS Aircraft  
Northern Inyo Hospital CEO, ED Director, Nurse Managers and PLNs  
Inyo EMCC Members

**FROM:** Tom Lynch  EMS Administrator

Reza Vaezazizi, MD  
Medical Director 

**SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PROTOCOL #8140 - TRANSPORT POLICY  
(INYO COUNTY ONLY)**

---

It was brought to ICEMA's attention the emergency policy issued on December 15, 2015, in response to the Southern Inyo Hospital closure contained an incorrect review date. The policy is being reissued to correct the date.

In accordance with ICEMA Reference #5030, protocols and/or policies adopted under the emergency provision shall remain in effect for approximately one hundred and twenty (120) days to allow for appropriate committee review and public comment period.

Please insert and replace the attached policy in the EMS Policy, Procedure and Protocol Manual with the updated document and ensure every station or facility has a reference copy. The ICEMA policies and protocols can also be found on ICEMA's website at ICEMA.net under the Policy, Procedure and Protocol Manual section.

If you have any questions related to documents in the manual, please contact Ron Holk, RN, EMS Coordinator, at (909) 388-5808 or via e-mail at [ron.holk@cao.sbcounty.gov](mailto:ron.holk@cao.sbcounty.gov).

TL/RV/jlm

Attachment

c: File Copy



---

## TRANSPORT POLICY

*(Inyo County Only)*

---

### I. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for EMS field personnel for the transportation of patients in Inyo County.

### II. POLICY

#### A. Ground Transport of Patients in Inyo County

- All patients originating in Independence (EOA 3) shall be transported to Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) per ICEMA Reference #8130 - Destination Policy.
- All patients originating in Olancho/Cartago (EOA 5 and 6) shall be transported to Ridgecrest Regional Hospital (RRH) per ICEMA Reference #8130 - Destination Policy.
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) intercept may be used when available and only when the patient's condition requires a higher level of care.
- The receiving hospital shall be contacted as soon as possible according to ICEMA Reference #5040 - Radio Communication Policy.
- Base hospital physician may override prior destination decision by paramedic (EMT-P) per ICEMA Reference #8130 - Destination Policy.

**NOTE:** As a reference, Cottonwood Creek Bridge (halfway between Olancho/ Cartago and Lone Pine) is the mid-point between NIH and RRH.

#### B. Special Considerations

All patients originating in Lone Pine (EOA 4) that require a higher level of care:

- An ALS flight crew (Sierra Lifeflight) may be requested if ALS care is required.

- Simultaneously base hospital contact shall be made to base hospital who will determine (in collaboration with the ground and flight crew) whether:
  - Patient is transported via ground to NIH with ALS flight crew.
  - Patient is transported via air to Bishop and then by ground to NIH.
  - Patient is transported by air or ground to a hospital outside the county.

**C. Base Hospital Contact**

- Base hospital contact is required according to ICEMA Reference #5040 - Radio Communication Policy.
- All patients being considered for transport to hospitals other than NIH or RRH require NIH base hospital contact for medical control and destination decision.
- Patients requiring higher level of care such as that required by patient condition (trauma, stroke or STEMI), may be directed to a more distant facility by the base hospital.
- All patient destinations other than by ground transport require base hospital direction prior to transport.

**D. Patient Documentation and Quality Improvement (QI/QA)**

- EMS field personnel must complete an ICEMA approved electronic patient care record (ePCR) for all patients.
- All ePCRs will be reviewed as part of the EMS provider and base hospital review process.

**III. REFERENCES**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
5040	Radio Communication Policy
8130	Destination Policy