



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