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## CONTINUATION OF CARE (San Bernardino County Only)

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### I. PURPOSE

To develop a system that ensures the rapid transport of patients at the time of symptom onset or injury, to receiving the most appropriate definitive care. This system of care consists of public safety answering point (PSAP) providers, EMS providers, referral hospitals (RH), Specialty Care Centers (Trauma, Cardiovascular ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) or Stroke), ICEMA and EMS leaders combining their efforts to achieve this goal.

This policy shall only be used for:

- Rapid transport of trauma, STEMI and stroke patients from RH to Specialty Care Center.
- Specialty Care Center to Specialty Care Center when higher level of care is required.
- EMS providers transporting unstable patients requiring transport to a Specialty Care Center to stop at any closest receiving hospital for airway stabilization, and continue on to a Specialty Care Center.

It is not to be used for any other form of interfacility transfer of patients.

### II. DEFINITIONS

**Neurovascular Stroke Receiving Centers (NSRC):** A licensed general acute care hospital designated by ICEMA's Governing Board as a NSRC.

**Referral Hospital (RH):** Any licensed general acute care hospital that is not an ICEMA designated TC, SRC or NSRC.

**Specialty Care Center:** An ICEMA designated Trauma, STEMI or Stroke Center.

**STEMI Receiving Centers (SRC):** A licensed general acute care hospital designated by ICEMA's Governing Board as STEMI Receiving Center with emergency interventional cardiac catheterization capabilities.

**Trauma Center (TC):** A licensed general acute care hospital designated by ICEMA's Governing Board as a trauma hospital in accordance with State laws, regulations and ICEMA policies.

### III. INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Any patient meeting ICEMA Trauma Triage Criteria, (refer to ICEMA Reference #15030 - Trauma Triage Criteria and Destination Policy) arriving at a non-trauma hospital by EMS or non-EMS transport.
- Any patient with a positive STEMI requiring EMS transport to a SRC (refer to ICEMA Reference #6070 - Cardiovascular ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction Receiving Centers Criteria and Destination Policy).
- Any patient with a positive mLAPSS or stroke scale requiring EMS transport to a NSRC (refer to ICEMA Reference #6100 - Neurovascular Stroke Receiving Centers Criteria and Destination Policy).

### IV. INITIAL TREATMENT GOALS AT RH

- Initiate resuscitative measures within the capabilities of the facility.
- Ensure patient stabilization is adequate for subsequent transport.
- Do not delay transport by initiating any diagnostic procedures that do not have direct impact on immediate resuscitative measures.

#### ➤ GUIDELINES

- < 30 minutes at RH (door-in/door-out).
- < 30 minutes to complete ALS continuation of care transport.
- < 30 minutes door-to-intervention at Specialty Care Center.
- RH shall contact the appropriate Specialty Care Center ED physician directly without calling for an inpatient bed assignment. Refer to Section IV - SRH-SRC Buddy System Table.
- EMS providers shall make Specialty Care Center base hospital contact.
- The Specialty Care Centers shall accept all referred trauma, stroke and STEMI patients unless they are on Internal Disaster as defined in ICEMA Reference #8060 - Requests for Hospital Diversion Policy (San Bernardino County Only).
- The Specialty Care Center ED physician is the accepting physician at the Specialty Care Center and will activate the internal Trauma, STEMI, or Stroke Team according to internal TC, SRC or NSRC policies or protocols.

- RH ED physician will determine the appropriate mode of transportation for the patient.
- Simultaneously call 9-1-1 and utilize the following script to dispatch:  
  
**“This is a Continuation of Care run from \_\_\_\_ hospital to \_\_\_\_ Trauma, STEMI or Stroke Center”**  
  
*Dispatchers will only dispatch transporting paramedic units without any fire apparatus.*
- RH ED physician will provide a verbal report to the ED physician at the Specialty Care Center.
- RH must send all medical records, test results, radiologic evaluations to the Specialty Care Center. **DO NOT DELAY TRANSPORT** - these documents may be FAXED to the Specialty Care Center.

#### V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- If the patient has arrived at the RH via EMS field personnel, the RH ED physician may request that the transporting team remain and immediately transport the patient once minimal stabilization is done at the RH.
- If a suspected stroke patient is outside of the tPA administration window (greater than 4.5 hours from “last seen normal”), contact nearest stroke center to determine the best destination. Then follow the 9-1-1 script.
- EMT-Ps may only transport patients on Dopamine and Lidocaine drips. Heparin and Integrillin drips are not within the EMT-P scope of practice and require a critical care transport nurse to be in attendance. Unless medically necessary, avoid using medication drips that are outside of the EMT-P scope of practice to avoid any delays in transferring of patients.
- The RH may consider sending one of its nurses or physician with the transporting ALS unit if deemed necessary due to the patient’s condition or scope of practice.
- Requests for Specialty Care Transport (SCT) (ground or air ambulance) must be made directly with the EMS provider’s dispatch center. The request for SCT should be made as early as possible or simultaneously upon patient’s arrival so availability of resource can be determined.

- Specialty Care Center diversion is not permitted except for Internal Disaster. However, Specialty Care Center base hospitals are allowed to facilitate redirecting of EMS patients to nearby SRCs, NSRCs or TCs when the closest Specialty Care Center is over capacity to avoid prolonged door-to-intervention times. Specialty Care Center base hospitals shall ensure physician to physician contact when redirecting patients.

**VI. SPECIALTY CARE CENTER - REFERRAL HOSPITAL BUDDY SYSTEM TABLE**

NEUROVASCULAR STROKE RECEIVING CENTERS (NSRC)	NEUROVASCULAR STROKE REFERRAL HOSPITALS (NSRH)
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barstow Community Hospital</li> <li>• Colorado River Medical Center</li> <li>• Community Hospital of San Bernardino</li> <li>• Hi Desert Medical Center</li> <li>• St. Bernardine Medical Center</li> <li>• St. Mary Medical Center</li> </ul>
Desert Regional Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado River Medical Center</li> <li>• Hi-Desert Medical Center</li> </ul>
Kaiser Hospital Foundation - Fontana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barstow Community Hospital</li> <li>• Victor Valley Global Medical Center</li> <li>• Desert Valley Hospital</li> </ul>
Kaiser Hospital Foundation - Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chino Valley Medical Center</li> <li>• Montclair Community Hospital</li> </ul>
Loma Linda University Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bear Valley Community Hospital</li> <li>• Community Hospital of San Bernardino</li> <li>• J.L. Pettis VA Hospital (Loma Linda VA)</li> <li>• Mountains Community Hospital</li> <li>• St. Bernardine Medical Center</li> <li>• Weed Army Community Hospital at Fort Irwin</li> </ul>
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chino Valley Medical Center</li> <li>• Montclair Hospital Medical Center</li> </ul>
Redlands Community Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bear Valley Community Hospital</li> <li>• J. L. Pettis VA Hospital (Loma Linda VA)</li> <li>• Mountains Community Hospital</li> </ul>
San Antonio Regional Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chino Valley Medical Center</li> <li>• Desert Valley Hospital</li> <li>• Montclair Hospital Medical Center</li> <li>• St. Mary Medical Center</li> <li>• Victor Valley Global Medical Center</li> </ul>

STEMI RECEIVING CENTER (SRC)	STEMI REFERRAL HOSPITAL (SRH)
Desert Valley Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barstow Community Hospital</li> <li>• Victor Valley Global Medical Center</li> <li>• Weed Army Community Hospital at Fort Irwin</li> </ul>
Loma Linda University Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrowhead Regional Medical Center</li> <li>• Bear Valley Community Hospital</li> <li>• J. L. Pettis VA Hospital (Loma Linda VA)</li> <li>• Redlands Community Hospital</li> </ul>
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chino Valley Medical Center</li> <li>• Montclair Hospital Medical Center</li> </ul>
San Antonio Regional Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chino Valley Medical Center</li> <li>• Kaiser Ontario Medical Center</li> <li>• Montclair Hospital Medical Center</li> </ul>
St. Bernardine Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado River Medical Center</li> <li>• Community Hospital of San Bernardino</li> <li>• Kaiser Fontana Medical Center</li> <li>• Mountains Community Hospital</li> </ul>
St. Mary Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barstow Community Hospital</li> <li>• Bear Valley Community Hospital</li> <li>• Hi-Desert Medical Center</li> <li>• Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital-29 Palms</li> <li>• Victor Valley Global Medical Center</li> </ul>

TRAUMA CENTER (TC)	REFERRAL HOSPITAL (SRH)
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barstow Community Hospital</li> <li>• Chino Valley Medical Center</li> <li>• Desert Valley Medical Center</li> <li>• Kaiser Fontana</li> <li>• Kaiser Ontario</li> <li>• Mammoth Hospital</li> <li>• Montclair Hospital Medical Center</li> <li>• Northern Inyo Hospital</li> <li>• San Antonio Regional Hospital</li> <li>• Southern Inyo Hospital</li> <li>• St. Bernardine Medical Center</li> </ul>
Loma Linda University Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bear Valley Community Hospital</li> <li>• Colorado River Medical Center</li> <li>• Hi Desert Medical Center</li> <li>• Mountains Community Hospital</li> <li>• Redlands Community Hospital</li> <li>• J. L. Pettis VA Hospital (Loma Linda VA)</li> <li>• Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital-29 Palms</li> <li>• St. Mary Medical Center</li> <li>• Victor Valley Global Medical Center</li> <li>• Weed Army Hospital</li> </ul>
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Pediatric Trauma Center</li> </ul>

**VII. REFERENCES**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
6070	Cardiovascular ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction Receiving Centers Destination Policy
6100	Neurovascular Stroke Receiving Centers Destination Policy (San Bernardino County Only)
8060	Requests for Hospital Diversion Policy (San Bernardino County Only)
15030	Trauma Triage Criteria