



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration Clinic Services Public Health
Behavioral Health Emergency Medical Services Public Administrator/Public Guardian
Environmental Health/Animal Services

Recipient of The California Endowment's 2017 Arnold X. Perkins Award for Outstanding Health Equity Practice

Date: December 2, 2017
To: All Monterey County EMS System Hospital and Field Providers
From: James Stubblefield, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM
Medical Director, Monterey County EMS Agency

Regarding: Trauma Patient Destination and Field to Base Hospital Communication

This memorandum clarifies and reinforces EMS System Policies 4040 (Field Triage) and 5000 (Patient Destination regarding the transport and destination of adult trauma patients and pediatric trauma patients, and EMS System Policies 3080 (Early Hospital Ringdown) and 3091 (Base Contact) regarding field to hospital communications.

Destination of Adult and Pediatric Trauma Patients

1. Paramedics should directly transport all patients that meet field criteria for trauma center level of care and are 15 years of age or greater to Natividad Trauma Center (NMC).
2. Paramedics should directly transport all pediatric patients (less than 15 years of age) with traumatic injuries meeting trauma center criteria by air or ground to a pediatric trauma center whenever possible.
3. Paramedics should directly transport all pediatric patients that are too critical to survive transport to a pediatric trauma center or when weather or logistical issues make this transport not in the patient's best interest, directly to Natividad Medical Center for stabilization and re-triage if necessary.
4. Paramedics should transport pediatric patients with minor injuries or injuries deemed by field personnel to not require trauma center care to the closest and most appropriate receiving hospital within Monterey County.

Field to Base Hospital Communication

- 1- Paramedics When field personnel call NMC for a patient in Item 2 above, it will be only for RINGDOWN, or for additional orders prior to arrival to NMC.
- 2- Paramedics will contact the NMC Base Hospital Physician for clinical advice and direction relating to trauma patients.
- 3- Paramedics do not need to contact the NMC Base Hospital Physician for transports to non-trauma receiving hospitals.
- 4- Patients taken to non-trauma centers by field personnel will be received and treated at those hospitals. Contact with the trauma center is not necessary.

Questions regarding ambulance destination should be directed through your organization's Quality Improvement personnel to Laura Wallin, Trauma Coordinator at the EMS Agency at 831-755-4953.