

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 5000
Effective Date: 7/1/2019
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PATIENT DESTINATION

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidance regarding hospital destination decisions for patients in the prehospital setting.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. In-Extremis Patients: Patients who are in-extremis shall be transported to the most accessible emergency department regardless of their open or closed status.
- B. Specialty Care Criteria: Patients who meet Monterey County EMS Agency established criteria for specialty care (i.e. trauma, STEMI, stroke, behavioral health, ROSC, pediatric arrhythmia) shall be transported to the most accessible designated hospital that provides that specialty care.
 - 1. Patients that are placed on a 5150 hold by an authorized behavioral health specialist should be taken to the Emergency Department of the behavioral health specialist's request.
 - 2. Patients that are placed on a 5150 hold by Law Enforcement Officers, without the aid of a behavioral health specialist requesting a destination should be taken to Natividad Medical Center or the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula.
- C. Patient Preference: Patients who express a desire to be transported to a particular emergency department shall have their wishes followed unless the patient is considered to be in-extremis. Should the patient need a specialty hospital such as STEMI, stroke, or trauma, the medic should make every effort to convince the patient to go to the appropriate specialty hospital. A patient's refusal to go to a recommended specialty hospital shall be documented in the PCR.
- D. No Stated Preference: Patients with no stated preference should, in most cases, be transported to the most accessible emergency department.

III. OTHER DESTINATIONS

- A. Out of County Emergency Department: Patients may be transported to an out of county emergency department if that hospital is accessible and open for ambulance traffic. Paramedic Field Supervisor approval is required for destinations further than adjacent counties.
 - 1. Contact shall be made with EMS Dispatch to determine the open or closed status of out of county hospitals. EMS Dispatch will use ReddiNet to determine the status of the out of county hospital.

2. Transport may continue to the out of county emergency department if it is able to accept the patient.
3. If the out of county hospital is not able to accept the patient, the patient shall be transported to the most accessible Monterey County emergency department or needed specialty center.
4. Medical control will remain with a Monterey County designated Base Hospital.

IV. NOTES

- A. Consider utilizing more than one hospital when there are multiple patients to avoid overloading any single hospital. Follow patient distribution principles found in the MCI Plan in a declared MCI.
 1. Make every attempt to transport family members to the same trauma center, if possible.
- B. In the City of Salinas, patients located north of Market St. will be considered closer to Natividad Medical Center. Patients located south of Market St. will be considered closer to Salinas Valley Memorial.
- C. For scene calls, patients who have a valid DNR order who expire during transport shall be transported to the destination hospital. If a patient with a DNR expires during a transfer, the patient should be taken to the receiving hospital or returned to the sending hospital, whichever is closer. This decision may be based on paramedic judgement or family wishes if they are present.

Patient Destination Matrix

Type of Patient	Destination
In-Extremis	Most accessible Emergency Department
Specialty Care Criteria (i.e. trauma, STEMI, stroke, behavioral health, ROSC, pediatric arrhythmia)	Most accessible designated hospital that provides that specialty care
Patient Preference	Transport patient to hospital of choice. If patient needs specialty hospital, make every effort to convince patient to go to appropriate specialty hospital.
No stated preference	Most accessible Emergency Department
Out of County hospitals (patient preference or closest most accessible)	Allowed in certain circumstances. Hospital must be open and accepting patients. Contact Dispatch to determine status.
Unsure as to appropriate destination	Contact a Monterey County Base Hospital

END OF POLICY




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