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Date: January 18, 2022

TO: Ambulance Companies
Emergency Receiving Centers (ERCs)
911 Providers
Base Hospital Coordinators (BHCs)

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATIONS TO AMBULANCE MEMO #4212

Orange County EMS (OCEMS) issued a memo (#4212) on December 29, 2021 that authorized ambulance personnel to place patients on cots and return to service under certain circumstances. The following memo will clarify some of the issues that arose subsequent to the dissemination of memo #4212.

These clarifications, listed below, were developed by, and in mutual consultation with, all OCFCA EMS officers, as well as various participating ED managers and base coordinators:

- Interpretation of the trigger to activate the options described in Letter #4212
 - To exercise an option from OCEMS Letter #4212, an ambulance crew must meet or exceed a 60-minute offload time and have another ambulance waiting behind them who has been there at least 15 minutes.
 - This applies to all ambulances, ALS and BLS staffed.
- ERC and EMS cooperation when considering Letter #4212 options
 - We encourage all EMS personnel to proactively communicate with the ED staff, prioritizing patient care and the EMS system as we work together for success.
- Consolidation of patients
 - Any two ambulance units who come to an agreement that one will take responsibility for the other's patient, before the transfer of care to the hospital, may release the other unit back into service at any time. ED staff should be made aware of the consolidation.
 - Cots may be utilized to facilitate this consolidation without being a Letter #4212 action. This operational decision is irrespective of the stipulations of OCEMS Letter #4212 but the remaining crew may still use the Letter #4212 options, when applicable.

Carl Schultz, MD
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It is likely that this memo will help rectify some issues, but may uncover new areas that require further explanation. OCEMS remains open to input and hopes that all parties can work together during these challenging times to provide the best care possible under the circumstances. Should further concerns arise, OCEMS is committed to working collaboratively with all parties to resolve these issues.



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