



DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE FACILITY



I. AUTHORITY:

*Health and Safety Code **1797.220, 1798.**, 1798-178: A local EMS Agency may develop triage and transfer protocols to facilitate prompt delivery of paramedic transported patients to appropriate designated facilities within and without its area of jurisdiction.*

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes considerations, including patient requests, for the determining appropriate receiving facility for prehospital patients transported by an advanced life support (ALS) unit.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Transported patient means a patient transported by ambulance.

Escorted patient means a patient transported and escorted by an emergency medical technician-paramedic (EMT-P).

IV. PATIENT RIGHTS:

Paramedic Receiving Center (PRC) destination preference expressed by a patient, including prepayment health care service subscribers, or a patient's legal guardian or other persons lawfully authorized to make health care decisions for the patient shall be honored unless:

- A. Such request is not medically in the best interest of the patient as determined by the base hospital (BH) physician, or
- B. The preferred facility is beyond a reasonable travel time (estimated 20 minutes one way) from the incident scene.

V. CRITERIA:

- A. In general, an escorted patient not expressing a facility preference (IV) shall be transported from the scene of the incident to the closest (within the shortest transport time) appropriate PRC.
- B. Transport to other than the closest appropriate designated PRC will be ordered if it is medically in the best interest of the patient, as determined by the BH physician.
- C. An EMT-P escorting a patient to a PRC will remain with the patient until medical management is assumed by the PRC's medical or licensed nursing staff and will provide such staff with a verbal report and completed prehospital care report.
- D. Prehospital patient management is the responsibility of the BH physician. However, a physician at the scene may assume full responsibility including accompanying the patient to the patient's destination preference per the "Physician at Scene" policy (reference OCEMS P/P 310.15).

Italicized Text Identifies Quotations from an Authority Outside The OCEMS.

Approved:

P/P: 310.10
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