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DATE: December 20, 2023

TO: 911 ALS Providers
911 Ambulance Providers
Base Hospital Coordinators
Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICNs)

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF OCEMS POLICY #310.96

As most all of the EMS community is aware, Orange County EMS (OCEMS) has issued a policy that identifies several options to help manage prolonged APOTs (#310.96). This includes how to address patients that are held in an ambulance on the hospital grounds for more than an hour and not permitted to off-load. In this situation, and in this situation only, paramedics can direct the ambulance to another Emergency Receiving Center after notifying the charge or triage nurse at their current location that they are leaving.

This policy does NOT authorize taking a patient who is inside the emergency department waiting for a bed, moving them back into an ambulance outside the department, and driving to another institution. Any individual engaging in this behavior is in violation of policy #310.96 and is practicing outside OCEMS authority/responsibility. As such, any liability for an untoward patient outcome will fall solely on the individual engaging in this behavior. OCEMS will not be able to defend this action. This type of activity has been happening and must cease immediately.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carl Schultz, MD'.

Carl H. Schultz, MD
EMS Medical Director

CS:em#4880