

**EMS Administration****Date: 07/01/2024****Requirements for Air Ambulance Service Providers****Policy #1650**

- I. **Purpose:** To assure minimum requirements for air ambulance service providers operating in Imperial County.
- II. **Authority:** California Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Emergency Medical Services [1797. – 1797.201] and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Prehospital Emergency Medical Services.
- I. **Policy:** Providers of Air Ambulance Services in Imperial County shall:
  - A. Maintain a current Imperial County Air Ambulance Service Provider Permit and Agreement with the County of Imperial to provide air ambulance services.
  - B. Ensure compliance with all applicable Imperial County Ordinances and EMS Agency Policies, applicable sections of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, and pertinent F.A.A. regulations. Nothing in this policy supersedes or negates compliance with federal regulations.
  - C. Maintain current accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS).
  - D. Be staffed with two (2) licensed registered nurses, or two (2) licensed physicians, or a licensed nurse and a licensed physician, or a licensed nurse and a licensed paramedic, or a licensed physician and a licensed paramedic.
  - E. Ensure all aircraft are capable of communicating with the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, EMS providers at the scene, El Centro Regional Medical Center, and Pioneers Memorial Hospital, all county fire agencies, all federal agencies in county, all dispatch centers, and all law enforcement agencies. These frequencies shall be continuously monitored.
  - F. Designate a Medical Director.
    1. The Air Ambulance Provider's Medical Director shall maintain a valid license as a physician in California.
    2. The Air Ambulance Provider's Medical Director shall develop standardized procedures for Registered Nurses. The procedures must be submitted to the Imperial County EMS Agency prior to implementation.
  - G. Ensure medical flight crew staff has been trained in accordance with CCR, Title 22, Chapter 8, Article 3.
  - H. Ensure medical flight crew staff participate in continuing education (CE) as required by licensure, certification, or employment.

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- I. Ensure every pilot in command has, in their possession, a valid medical certificate and appropriate current type rating and applicable certificates.
- J. Air Ambulance Service Providers, who maintain/station air ambulances in Imperial County, shall establish at least one ambulance station within the geographic borders of Imperial County and occupy this station on a continuing basis.
  1. All such locations shall comply with all applicable zoning, building, and occupational health and safety regulations;
  2. Each ambulance station shall be adequate to house the pilots and medical flight crew required for the air ambulances based at that location;
  3. There shall be facilities sufficient for all personnel in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations;
  4. The Air Ambulance Service Provider shall allow for the inspection of the facilities; equipment and methods of operation of each ambulance station.
- K. Should comply with, and report all quality assurance metrics required by Imperial County EMS Agency and any active local optional scope of practice allowances.
- L. ETAs should be documented and recorded appropriately.
- M. Use Imperial County Official Policies for practice at all provider levels, (MICNs, RNs, Paramedics, Advanced EMTs and EMT-Bs). This includes our Federal Partners (Bureau of Land Management, Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection and Federal Fire).

APPROVED:

SIGNATURE ON FILE – DATE

Katherine Staats, M.D., FACEP

EMS Medical Director