

**EMS Administration****Date: 04/22/2024****Requirements for Critical Care Transport Service Providers****Policy #1640**

- I. **Purpose:** To assure minimum requirements for ground critical care transport (CCT) services in Imperial County.
- II. **Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220, 1797.222, 1797.172
- III. **Definitions:**
  - A. Ground Critical Care Transport (CCT) Service – the provision of ambulance services utilizing personnel, equipment and medications that provide a higher level of care than that of an ambulance staffed by EMT-Paramedics alone.
  - B. Ground CCT Service Provider – any agency that routinely provides critical care transport services to patients originating within Imperial County.
  - C. Maintaining or stationing an ambulance in Imperial County means to position an ambulance, not assigned to a call for service, within the geographic borders of the County in an effort to decrease anticipated response time.
- I. **Policy:** To be eligible to provide Ground Critical Care Transport Services in Imperial County, a company or agency shall:
  - A. CCT Service Providers shall comply with all requirements established for Ground Ambulance Service Providers (see ALS Service Provider Policy).
  - B. Maintain a current permit to provide CCT services in Imperial County.
  - C. Ensure all ambulances 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.
  - D. Each CCT service provider shall designate a medical director.
    1. The medical director shall maintain a valid license as a physician in California.
    2. The medical director shall be responsible for all medical protocols and procedures followed by the CCT Service Provider's staff. The protocols and procedures shall be submitted to the Imperial County EMS agency prior to implementation.
    3. The CCT Service Provider medical director shall ensure that all nursing/medical staff on a CCT collectively possess the skills and knowledge to provide a level of care commensurate with the specific and anticipated needs of the patient. The CCT Service Provider medical director shall be accountable for all medical procedures performed on board the CCT by agency staff.

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4. The medical director for the CCT service provider shall ensure that a comprehensive, written quality assurance (QA)/quality improvement (QI) program is in place to evaluate the medical/nursing care provided to all patients. This QA/QI program shall be based on policies/procedures as cited by the Imperial County EMS Agency, including participation in Countywide monitoring activities (see Quality Assurance & Improvement Policy)
- E. The provider agency shall allow access to completed patient care reports for review by the Imperial County EMS Agency and the Base Hospital Coordinator.
- F. Staffing – CCT service providers shall adopt policies requiring the following:
  1. All nursing/medical personnel shall maintain current appropriate licensure/certification.
  2. CCT service provider agencies shall routinely staff all CCT vehicles with at least one (1) registered nurse or physician and two (2) certified or licensed patient care attendants. Two medical personnel shall remain with the patient during the transport.
  3. The nurse shall meet the following qualifications:
    - a. Possess a current California R.N. License
    - b. Demonstrate clinical competence in resuscitation skills appropriate for the age of transported patients (i.e. ACLS, PALS, PEPP, ENPC, NRP).
    - c. Possess two (2) years of recent (within five years) experience in a critical care setting (ICU, CCU, ED, CCT).
    - d. Complete a formal orientation program to the CCT service provider's policies, equipment, and medical protocols.
- G. Critical Care Transport Service Providers, who maintain/station 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 ambulance attendants and medical crew required for the ambulances based at that location;
  3. There shall be facilities sufficient for all personnel in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations;

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4. The Critical Care Transport Service Provider shall allow for the inspection of the facilities; equipment and methods of operation of each ambulance station.

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