

System Operations
Hospital Diversion (Bypass)**Date: 02/01/2021**
Policy #4050

- I. **Purpose:** To ensure emergency patients are transported to the most accessible medical facility, which is staffed, equipped and prepare to administer emergency care to the needs of the patient safely.
- II. **Authority:** Health and Safety code, Division 2.5, section 1797. 220. California Administrative Code, Title 13, Section 1105(c).
- III. **Definitions:**
 - a. **CT Bypass:** The hospital's CT scanner is out of service and is unable to provide emergency CT scans to determine emergency management of patients (eg. Altered Neurological Function, traumatic and non- traumatic, suspected intra-abdominal catastrophe, etc.)
 - b. **Internal Disruption:** The hospital is unable to receive any patient due to an internal emergency (e.g. Fire, power outage, water disruption, etc.)
 - c. **ED Saturation:** The Emergency Department resources are fully committed despite efforts by the hospital to accommodate peak loads. This is addressed in policy #4170 for Ambulance Patient Offload Time and Delay Policy.
 - d. **STEMI Bypass:** The catherization lab, or other resources for acute STEMIs is unable to receive patients, either due to patient load, or internal resource limitation.
- IV. **Policy:**
 - a. Hospitals may request to go on hospital diversion (bypass) due to CT bypass, Internal Disruption, ED Saturation and/or STEMI Bypass.
 - b. Final authority rests on the base hospital physician for patient destinations.
 - c. Any patient with uncontrollable problems in the field, such as: unmanageable or worsening airway, uncontrolled hemorrhage, or cardiac arrest, will be transported to the nearest most accessible receiving center.
 - i. EMS providers shall consult with the BHP and request to not be diverted for any patients in which EMS providers feel would likely deteriorate due to the diversion.
 - d. If all receiving hospitals are on diversion, then patients will go to the nearest hospital.
- V. **Procedure:**
 - a. Hospital diversion shall be authorized by the emergency department physician and hospital administration, or designee.
 - b. To initiate diversion, Reddinet's "STATUS" tab shall be utilized to update the hospitals diversion status. (Reddinet reports will be utilized to track monthly diversion hours.)
 - c. Notification shall be made to Imperial County Sheriff's Office at 442-265-2021.
 - d. Transport agencies shall be notified via Reddinet.
 - e. Deactivation of hospital diversion will also be updated utilizing Reddinet's "STATUS" tab.

APPROVED:

Signature on FileKatherine Staats, M.D.
EMS Medical Director