

EMS System Operations**Date: 02/01/2021****Triage to Appropriate Facility****Policy #4130****I. Purpose:**

1. To establish guidelines for the transportation of patients by ambulance from the scene of a medical emergency to the most appropriate receiving facility.

II. Authority:

1. California Health and Safety Code – Division 2.5: Emergency Medical Services, Section 1798.

III. Policy:

1. Patients should be transported from the scene of the emergency to the most accessible and appropriate hospital having a permit for Basic or Comprehensive emergency medical care, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 5, staffed, equipped, and prepared to administer care appropriate to the needs of the patient.
2. Trauma center candidates who meet trauma triage criteria will be transported to the most appropriate trauma center, unless critically unstable, at which point the patient should be transported to the nearest hospital.
3. Burn center candidates who meet burn triage criteria will be transported to the most appropriate burn center, unless critically unstable, at which point the patient should be transported to the nearest hospital.
4. Transport to other than the most accessible and appropriate facility will be authorized under the following conditions:
 - a. If it is in the best interest of the patient, based on the medical judgment of the Base Hospital Physician
 - b. If the patient meets the “competency” requirement established by Imperial County EMS Agency Policy #4130 and is over 18 years of age, an emancipated minor, a minor who is married, a minor who is in the military, and the facility of preference is not beyond a “reasonable” distance from the scene of the incident.
 - i. A “reasonable” distance is based on the length of time the transporting ambulance will be out of its service area and the availability of “back-up” ambulance service.
5. In the event the patient’s request is unreasonable and the patient is unwavering in that request, consultation with a Base Hospital shall occur. The patient should be presented with alternatives for obtaining care/transportation or modification of services offered.
6. EMS personnel shall ensure documentation includes an accurate patient history and assessment, a description of the patient which clearly indicates his/her decision-making capacity, why the patient selected an alternate receiving facility, a statement that the patient understands the risks/consequences of his/her decision, alternatives presented to the patient, and results of the consultation with the Base Hospital.

APPROVED:

Signature on File

Katherine Staats, M.D.

EMS Medical Director