

- I. Authority: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5. Section 1798.

- II. Purpose: To establish a policy for the transportation of patients by ambulance from the scene of a medical emergency to the most appropriate receiving facility.

- III. Policy:
 - A. Patients should be transported from the scene of the incident 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.

 - B. Transport to other than the most accessible and appropriate facility will be authorized under the following conditions:
 1. If it is in the best interest of the patient, based on the medical judgment of the Base Hospital Physician;

 2. If the patient meets the "competency" requirement as outlined in Policy #4130 and is over 18 years of age, an emancipated minor, a minor who is married, a minor who is in the military, a legal guardian or a parent of a minor, and the facility of preference is not beyond a "reasonable" distance from the scene of the incident.

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.

 - C. In the event patient's request is unreasonable and patient is unwavering in that request, Base Hospital consultation must be obtained. Patient should be presented with alternatives for obtaining care/transport or modification of services offered.

- D. DOCUMENTATION: The EMT should ensure documentation includes 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 (other than the most accessible facility), a statement that the patient understands the risks/consequences of his/her decision, alternatives presented to the patient, and results of consultation with Base Hospital.

APPROVAL



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