

INTERFACILITY TRANSFER GUIDELINES

Policy: Patients with a level of acuity or need for diagnostics/treatment or consultation not available at any Imperial County hospital, will be transferred appropriately, expediently, and in compliance with EMTALA regulations. Relationships between receiving and transferring hospitals will allow for collegial education and feedback about transferred patients and the transfer process.

Procedure:

I. Identify Patients:

Any patient who may require resources, exceeding the trauma services available at the closest facility.

A. When patients present to the Emergency Department, begin initial evaluation and stabilization. The Emergency Department physician makes the determination of need for transfer. There should be simultaneous effort made to arrange for transfer while stabilizing care is delivered.

II. Provide Necessary Interventions:

This may include securing an airway, establishing venous access, performing procedures (such as chest tube insertion) administering medications, etc. There is no requirement for the transferring facility to stabilize the emergency medical condition necessitating transfer. Some conditions may not be able to be stabilized prior to transfer. Delays in transfer to obtain diagnostics or await test results should be avoided in high acuity patients. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the potential risks of transfer. If stabilizing operative procedures must be done prior to transfer, arrangements for transfer and acceptance at the higher-level trauma center should be initiated simultaneously. The patient remains an ED patient of record during the operative procedure and is transferred as soon as possible after the operative phase of care.

III. Contact the Receiving Trauma Center.

Secure a receiving facility and select the appropriate mode of transportation and level of care required in route. If pediatric patients meet the pediatric trauma triage criteria, transfer to Children's Hospital- San Diego is the appropriate destination for children ages 14 and under. Contact the appropriate receiving

service, (Attachment A) at the desired receiving facility. Higher-level trauma centers are expected to accept patients from facilities that lack the resource to provide the required care, if they have the necessary resources. They may require physician acceptance at their facility prior to transfer. Follow the requirements of the receiving facility regarding physician-to-physician contact and acceptance.

IV. Obtain Consent

Obtain informed patient consent for transfer. If the patient is unable to provide consent, obtain consent from family if possible. If the patient is unable to provide consent, and family is not available, the patient may be transferred under implied consent.

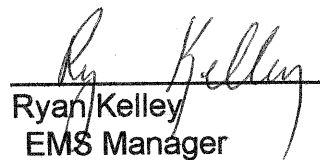
V. Have Transfer Documents Ready

Send the available information to the receiving facility. Information may be sent directly with the patient, or be sent by fax after the patient has departed. Include information such as demographics, procedures done; plan ahead and have appropriate copies ready for the transport unit when they arrive. Do not delay transfer due to preparation of transfer documents

APPROVAL



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ATTACHMENT A
RECEIVING FACILITIES

Note: To serve as a template only – each facility should individualize as needed. An adequate number of options in each category must be provided to accommodate transfers when staffed beds are not available at earlier choices. All listed facilities can accept ground or air transports, method selected will be driven by patient need.

Major Trauma Patients

UCSD – SAN DIEGO

HOSPITAL CONTACT: Call the In-house Trauma Attending

PHONE: **619-543-6737** Page operator and ask for
The Trauma Attending on-call

or Call The Trauma Unit direct line and ask the Resuscitation
Nurse to page the trauma attending on call.

PHONE: **619-543-6745**

or Call The trauma service office during business hours
There is an answering service during off hours

PHONE: **619-543-7200**

SCRIPPS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – SAN DIEGO

HOSPITAL CONTACT: Transfer Center

PHONE: **858-626-6140** (0630 –1900 Mon-Fri)

Nighttime: **858-626-6157** Saturday/Sunday after 2100

Call the ED for all other times 858-626-6151

DESERT HOSPITAL– PALM SPRINGS

HOSPITAL CONTACT: For Field Transfers – Call their ED

PHONE: **760-323-6251**

HOSPITAL CONTACT: For ED transfers – Call the Trauma Service

PHONE : **1-800-24 SHOCK** (800-247-4625)

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & HEALTH CENTER– SAN DIEGO

HOSPITAL CONTACT: **CHET TEAM** for All Transports.

They will decide if ground or air transport is needed, and
make arrangements for transport.

PHONE: **858-277-3404**