

TITLE: Trauma Patient Transfer and Transportation

APPROVED: _____
Executive Director

Medical Director

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SUPERSEDES: _____
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TRAUMA PATIENT TRANSFER AND TRANSPORTATION

I. **AUTHORITY:**

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798.162, 1798.163,
California Code of Regulations Section 100255, 100266.

II. **DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Pediatric" or "pediatric patient" means an individual, under the age of 14 who meets trauma triage criteria.
- B. "Trauma Center" or "designated trauma center" means a licensed hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, which has been designated as a Level I, II, III, or IV trauma center and/or Level I or II pediatric trauma center by the local EMS agency, in accordance with California Trauma Care System Regulations.

III. **PURPOSE:**

To establish standards for trauma patient flow among levels of trauma centers and receiving hospitals.

IV. **POLICY**

A. **Interfacility**

Patient transfers between Level II trauma centers within Mountain Valley EMS system shall only be conducted by mutual agreement of the transferring and receiving hospitals. The receiving hospital shall ensure that an appropriate member of its medical staff is available to take responsibility for the patient.

B. **Level III or Level IV Trauma Center to Level I or Level II Trauma Center**

Each Level III or Level IV trauma center, as a condition of designation, shall have:

1. A written transfer agreements with, at least, the nearest designated Level II trauma center.

2. Guidelines for identification of those patients who should be transferred to the trauma center which are based on the American College of Surgeons' High-Risk Criteria for Consideration of Early Transfer.
3. A procedure for arranging for transfer of appropriate patients, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Notification of the receiving trauma center physician
 - b. Arranging for transport, either ground or air
 - c. Accompanying of the patient by hospital staff, if appropriate

C. Level II Trauma Center to Level I Trauma Center

Each Level II trauma center, as a condition of designation, shall have:

1. A written transfer agreements with, at least, the nearest designated Level I trauma center and with specialty centers providing tertiary level care for burn and spinal cord injury patients.
2. Guidelines for identification of those patients who should be transferred to the trauma center which are based on the American College of Surgeons' High-Risk Criteria for Consideration of Early Transfer.
3. A procedure for arranging for transfer of appropriate patients, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Notification of the receiving trauma center physician
 - b. Arranging for transport, either ground or air
 - c. Accompanying of the patient by hospital staff, if appropriate

D. Pediatric Transfers

Each Level II trauma center, as a condition of designation, shall have:

1. A written transfer agreements with, at least, the nearest designated pediatric trauma center.
2. Guidelines for identification of those patients who should be transferred to the trauma center
3. A procedure for arranging for transfer of appropriate patients, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Notification of the receiving trauma center physician
 - b. Arranging for transport, either ground or air
 - c. Accompanying of the patient by hospital staff, if appropriate