



TITLE: BASE HOSPITAL STANDARDS

EMS Policy No. **4901**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for designating base hospitals in the San Joaquin County EMS System.

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798. 100 et seq.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Advanced Life Support" or "ALS" means special services included in the scope of practice of Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic which are designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care.
- B. "Base Hospital" means one of a limited number of hospitals which, upon designation by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency, is responsible for directing the advanced life support and prehospital care system assigned to it by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.
- C. "Base Hospital Physician" means a physician or surgeon who is currently licensed in California, who is assigned to the emergency department of a base hospital, and who has been trained to issue advice and instructions to prehospital emergency medical care personnel consistent with treatment protocols and medical control policies established by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.
- D. "Basic Life Support" or "BLS" means emergency first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation services included in the scope of practice of Emergency Medical Technician-I certified personnel.
- E. "Mobile Intensive Care Nurse" or "MICN" means a registered nurse who has been authorized by the medical director of the San Joaquin County EMS Agency as qualified to issue instructions to prehospital emergency medical personnel consistent with treatment protocols and medical control policies established by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.

POLICY:

Hospitals shall meet and maintain the following criteria as a SJCEMSA Base Hospital.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Designation Criteria:

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Approved: Signature on file
Medical Director

Signature on file
EMS Administrator



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A. Hospital Services:

1. Hold a special permit from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for Basic or Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services.
2. Maintain a valid and current Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations by the Joint Commission.
3. Agree to abide by the policies and procedures of the San Joaquin County EMS Agency including but not limited to treatment, triage, transport, diversion, and inter-facility transfers.
4. Agree to accept for treatment all patients who are under the immediate care of prehospital emergency medical care personnel except for times when the hospital is on internal disaster.

B. Required Hospital Personnel:

1. **Base Hospital Physician**
 - a. The hospital shall designate a physician licensed in the State of California and board certified in emergency medicine available at all times to provide immediate medical direction to MICN and prehospital emergency medical care personnel. Experience may be substituted for board certification at the sole discretion of the EMS Agency Medical Director. Each base hospital physician shall demonstrate knowledge of base hospital radio operations and San Joaquin County EMS Agency policies, procedures, and protocols.
2. **Mobile Intensive Care Nurse**
 - a. Unencumbered MICN authorized by the EMS Agency Medical Director available at all times to provide immediate medial direction to prehospital emergency medical care personnel.
3. **Base Hospital Medical Director**
 - a. The hospital shall designate a Base Hospital Medical Director who shall be a physician on the hospital staff, licensed in the State of California who is certified or prepared for certification by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. This physician shall be regularly assigned to the emergency department, have experience in and knowledge



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of base hospital radio operations and San Joaquin County EMS Agency policies, procedures and protocols and shall be responsible for the functions of the base hospital.

4. Base Hospital Nurse Liaison
 - a. The hospital shall designate Base Hospital Nurse Liaison, who is authorized as an MICN by the EMS Agency Medical Director, to assist the base hospital medical director in the continuous quality improvement, medical control, and supervision of prehospital emergency medical care personnel.

C. Required Hospital Policies:

1. Process in place to utilize and maintain two-way telecommunications equipment, as specified by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency, capable of direct two-way voice communications with prehospital emergency medical care personnel in the San Joaquin County EMS system.
2. Process in place to utilize and maintain a dedicated telephone line located in the emergency department for medical control communications with prehospital emergency medical care personnel.
3. Process in place to utilize and maintain a dedicated telephone ring down line ring to each San Joaquin County receiving hospital and the EMS Agency.
4. Process in place to utilize EMResource™ on a dedicated computer in the emergency department for reporting facility status and managing multi-casualty events as specified by the EMS Agency.
5. Process in place that digitally records and provides the EMS Agency with remote access to all radio and telephone medical control communications, maintain such recordings for a time period specified by the EMS Agency, and use such recordings exclusively for EMS CQI activities.

D. Quality Improvement:

1. In conjunction with the EMS Agency base hospitals shall provide continuing education for San Joaquin County prehospital emergency medical care personnel, MICNs, and base hospital



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- physicians. Monthly field care audits shall be provided for both hospital and field personnel.
2. Provide clinical training for EMT-I, EMT-P and MICN training programs approved by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency in accordance with the provisions of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Sections 100068 and 100150.
 3. Agree to have, utilize, and maintain an online medical control hospital log approved by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency separate from the emergency department patient log to be submitted to the San Joaquin County EMS Agency on a monthly basis.
 4. Participate in the EMS Agency's EMS continuous quality improvement (CQI) program which includes making available all relevant records for program monitoring and evaluation.

E. Designation Process:

1. In accordance with the provisions of Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, the San Joaquin County EMS Agency may at its sole discretion designate hospitals to provide medical direction of prehospital emergency medical care personnel.
2. Hospitals designated and contracted as base hospitals shall provide medical direction of prehospital emergency medical care in accordance with policies and procedures established by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.
3. The San Joaquin County EMS Agency may revoke or suspend a hospital's designation for failure to comply with any EMS Agency policy or directive.
4. Hospitals designated as a base hospital shall enter into a written agreements with the EMS Agency. Designated hospitals shall be responsible for all costs associated with such designation including the EMS Agency's costs associated with monitoring the agreement.