

**IMPACT EVALUATION OF REDUCTION / CLOSURE OF
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES****I. AUTHORITY:**

Health & Safety Code, Division 2 Section 1300, Article 5

II. APPLICATION:

This policy gives guidelines to the County and OCEMS for evaluating and reporting on the potential impact on the community and EMS System as a result of the downgrading or closure of emergency services in receiving hospitals. According to regulation, "the county may designate the local emergency medical services agency as the appropriate agency to conduct the impact evaluation"

III. CRITERIA:

- A. Following receipt of written notification from a licensed acute care hospital located in Orange County that it intends to downgrade or close its emergency service, the OCEMS will:
 1. Complete an evaluation (including one public hearing) and report on the proposed downgrade or closure to the state within sixty (60) days;
 2. Ensure that all hospital and prehospital care providers in the geographic area impacted by the service closure or change are consulted with, and zoning authorities are notified, prior to completing the impact evaluation;
 3. Notify the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) of the results of the impact evaluation within three (3) days of the completion of the evaluation.
- B. The OCEMS will use the following criteria to evaluate a proposed downgrade or closure of a local hospital emergency service:
 1. Geography (service area population density, travel time and distance to the next nearest facility, number and type of other available emergency services, and availability of prehospital resources).
 2. Base hospital designation (number of calls, impact on patients, prehospital personnel, and other base hospitals).
 3. Trauma care (number of trauma patients, impact on other hospitals, trauma centers, and trauma patients).
 4. Specialty services provided (neurosurgery, obstetrics, burn center, pediatrics, and next nearest availability).
 5. Patient volume (number of patients annually, both 911 transports and walk-ins).
 6. Notification of the public (process to be used: public hearing advertising, etc.).
 7. Analysis of findings.
 8. Recommended actions.
- C. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will make the final determination as to the nature of emergency services to be provided by the hospital seeking reduction or closure.

Italicized Text Identifies Quotations from an Authority Outside The OCEMS.

Approved: