



Health Services Department

Public Health Division

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

POLICY MEMORANDUM #5830

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/01/92

APPROVED BY:

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SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF EMS PATIENTS TO/FROM EMS AIRCRAFT

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22, CHAPTER 6, § 100206 – 100228; CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE 1798.170.

PURPOSE/POLICY:

To establish guidelines for the safe transfer of ground EMS patients to air EMS personnel.

I. GROUND/AIR TRANSFER

Ground EMS crews may transfer a patient to the flight crew of an EMS Rescue Aircraft when it is determined that rapid transport is a prime therapeutic intervention for the patient. It is the primary responsibility of the dispatch center to dispatch the most highly trained and staffed available EMS aircraft when requested.

II. MOST QUALIFIED PERSONNEL

If it is determined that EMS Rescue Aircraft personnel are less medically qualified than ground personnel, the appropriate base hospital will be contacted to determine whether or not the EMS rescue flight crew is capable of transporting the patient..

III. GUIDELINES WITHOUT BASE CONTACT

If base hospital contact is impossible, the following guidelines shall assist in the decision-making process whether or not the patient is transported by air.

- A. EMT-IIs on Air ALS rescue aircraft are capable of monitoring but not initiating field treatment provided by EMT-Ps or MICNs.
- B. EMT-Is on BLS rescue aircraft are capable of monitoring but not initiating field treatment provided by ALS ground crews.
- C. EMS rescue aircraft may allow ground EMS providers to be transported with the patient. The EMS provider going with the aircraft is considered a passenger assisting the patient and is not a member of the flight crew.
- D. Air/Ground Refusal – With Base Hospital contact and direction, an Air Ambulance crew may deem the patient(s) unacceptable for air transport, and may turn care back over to the ground crew.