

DATE: March 16, 2004

TO: All Holders of the Fresno/Kings/Madera EMS Policy and Procedure Manuals

From: Daniel J. Lynch, EMS Division Manager  
Jim Andrews, MD, EMS Medical Director

Subject: Heart Hospital and Patient's Medications

Heart Hospital

Recently there have been concerns and questions regarding patients being transported to the Heart Hospital. While the Heart Hospital is a hospital within the Fresno/Kings/Madera EMS Region, it does not have an emergency department and is not an approved facility for patient transport within EMS Policy and Procedures #547, "Patient Destination".

Patients who are requesting transport to the Heart Hospital from the prehospital setting will require Base Hospital contact. Since the Heart Hospital is under the Community Medical Center organization, EMS personnel should contact University Medical Center when requesting transport to the Heart Hospital. If attempts to contact University Medical Center are unsuccessful, EMS personnel should contact another Base Hospital. Interfacility transfers involving the Heart Hospital shall be in accordance with EMS Policy #553, "ALS Interfacility Transports".

Patient's Medications

There has also been concern that patients' medications are not being brought to the hospital during prehospital calls. The EMS Agency would like to remind EMS Personnel that every attempt should be made to bring the patient's medication to the hospital. To decrease the potential of losing medications, EMS personnel should document on the prehospital care report that medications were taken to the hospital and properly turned over to hospital staff. If for some reason the patient refuses to allow medications to be taken to the hospital, document on the prehospital care report that the patient refused.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Williams at (559) 445-3387.

DJL:TW:rb