

DATE: December 22, 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: Transportation of Prehospital Patients

Recently there have been concerns and questions regarding patients being transported to the Heart Hospital, Veteran's Administration (VA), Children's Crisis Assessment Intervention Resolution (CCAIR), and Psychiatric Assessment Center for Treatment (PACT). It was described that the procedures for transporting to these facilities were not clear, and the EMS Agency was asked to clarify these concerns.

### Heart Hospital and Veteran's Administration (VA)

While the Heart Hospital is a hospital within the Central California EMS Region, it does not have an emergency department and is not an approved receiving facility for prehospital patient transport in accordance with EMS Policy and Procedures #547, "Patient Destination".

Patients who are requesting transport to the Heart Hospital or Veteran's Administration from the prehospital setting will require Base Hospital contact to confirm acceptance. 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. EMS personnel should choose their Base Hospital based on the patient's second choice when transporting to the Veteran's Administration.

At **No** time shall prehospital personnel contact the Heart Hospital or Veteran's Administration directly. Any call-ins, including ETA call-ins and patient updates, for

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patients being transported to the Heart Hospital or Veteran's Administration require base hospital contact.

The Base Hospital will then contact the Heart Hospital or Veteran's Administration to confirm acceptance. If acceptance is confirmed, the patient shall be transported to either the Heart Hospital or Veteran's Administration. If acceptance is denied, the patient will need to choose an alternative facility other than these facilities. The EMS Agency has attached an algorithm for patients requesting transport to the Heart Hospital or Veteran's Administration.

Interfacility transfers involving the Heart Hospital or Veteran's Administration shall be in accordance with EMS Policy #553, "ALS Interfacility Transports".

EMS Units should continue to prepare patients for transport and begin transport while waiting for base hospital response. Under **No** circumstances should EMS units wait on scene with stat patients for a base hospital decision for patient destination.

Children's Crisis Assessment Intervention Resolution (CCAIR) and/or Psychiatric Assessment Center for Treatment (PACT) - FRESNO COUNTY ONLY

If the patient meets the criteria listed below, the patient shall be transported directly to Psychiatric Assessment Center for Treatment (PACT) if age 18 or greater or Children's Crisis Assessment Intervention Resolution (CCAIR) if under 18 years of age. Patients who do not meet the criteria below shall be transported to University Medical Center.

- Stable vital signs
- No acute physical complaint or injury
- No ingestion of substances or alcohol

Patients being transported to the Children's Crisis Assessment Intervention Resolution (CCAIR) and/or Psychiatric Assessment Center for Treatment (PACT) **do not** require a call-in to a base hospital. EMS units transporting patients to CCAIR or PACT are to transport and give report to the appropriate staff upon arrival. This applies to FRESNO COUNTY ONLY!

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

DJL:TW:rb

Attachment