

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 554
Subject	Non-Acute Care Facility or Physician's Office to Hospital Transport	Page 1 of 2
References		Effective 04/18/83

I. POLICY

EMS personnel shall follow established procedures when requested to transport a patient from a physician's office, medical clinic, non-acute care facility or a free-standing urgent care facility to an acute care hospital. These procedures may also apply in the situation where the patient's physician is present at the patient's residence.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Sending Physician Present and Not Ordering Immediate Transport

1. Obtain a brief history from the physician or nursing staff.
2. Complete a brief assessment, including vital signs and history.
3. If STAT transport is not required and if patient meets criteria for Base Hospital contact, make Base Hospital contact.
4. Allow the sending physician to speak with the Base Hospital Physician.
5. Follow the Base Hospital orders.

B. If Physician Present and Orders Immediate Transport

1. Request a brief history from the physician.
2. Inform the physician which Base Hospital you will be contacting.
3. Provide the physician with a copy of the "Information Letter".
4. Initiate transport.
5. Complete a brief patient assessment and make Base Hospital contact, if necessary, enroute.
6. The only situation in which a sending physician's order for immediate transport may be disregarded is when the patient requires CPR.

Approved By EMS Division Manager	<b>Daniel J. Lynch</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision
EMS Medical Director	<b>Jim Andrews, M.D.</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	<b>03/01/2013</b>

Subject	Non-Acute Care Facility or Physician's Office to Hospital Transport	Policy Number 554
---------	---------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------

7. Continue transport unless ordered by the Base Hospital to stop transport for the purpose of further patient stabilization.
  8. EMS personnel shall submit a Quality Improvement Report to the EMS Agency within 72 hours when a sending physician orders an immediate transport.
- C. Sending Physician Not Present
1. Complete a brief assessment, including vital signs and history.
  2. Initiate transport according to the patient's condition. Do not delay transport for a lengthy assessment. If the patient's condition meets criteria for Base Hospital contact, make Base Hospital contact.
- D. Patient Destination
- The patient will be transported to the hospital selected by the patient's physician. If the patient's condition is critical and the hospital selected is not the closest appropriate hospital, the Base Hospital Physician may choose to change the patient's destination, but should weigh the factors involved. The Base Hospital Physician should include the fact that the hospital selected by the sending physician may be prepared to immediately perform definitive care on the patient. If the destination of the patient is changed, the Base Hospital shall, without delay, notify the private physician.

# **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

## **INFORMATION LETTER** **PHYSICIANS UTILIZING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Dear Physician:

These EMTs or EMT-Paramedics are operating under the medical control of the local EMS Medical Directors. They are able to take basic life support, limited advanced life support, and advanced life support orders only from Base Hospital Emergency Departments. These Base Hospitals are listed below.

If the patient's clinical status requires advanced life support, EMS Personnel may be required to contact a Base Hospital for treatment orders. If you wish to maintain medical control of the patient's care during transport to the hospital, a call to the Base Hospital is necessary to discuss the patient's case with the Base Hospital Physician. EMS communications are usually recorded by the Base Hospital.

The following procedure is designed to facilitate patient care during transport of your patient to the hospital:

1. If Base Hospital contact is required by the patient's condition, EMS Personnel will contact the emergency department at the Base Hospital indicated below for possible treatment orders:

Valley Children's Hospital - 353-5798  
Adventist Medical Center - Hanford 537-0569  
Kaweah Delta District Hospital - 624-2129  
Saint Agnes Medical Center - 431-6285  
Sierra View District Hospital - 788-6174  
Community Regional Medical Center - 459-7430

2. If your patient is seriously ill, it is best if you called and spoke to the Base Hospital Physician at the Base Hospital Emergency Department. This will ensure care more consistent with your wishes enroute.

Although this may seem inconvenient, it is the only way EMS Personnel can administer advanced life support and remain within the law.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jim Andrews M.D., FACEP  
EMS Medical Director