



POLICY NO:	303
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MANDATORY BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION POLICY

Purpose: To ensure proper medical direction by the Base Hospital for all patient contacts made by prehospital emergency care personnel, and to establish a consistent mechanism for communication between field EMS personnel and Base Hospitals.

Authority: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798, 1798.2, 1798.102 and 1798.104. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100175.

Policy: The Base Hospital in the service area of the call must be consulted on every patient contact. The exception to this rule is with trauma patients who meet trauma criteria as specified in Policy #510, Trauma Triage Criteria and Patient Destination and with STEMI or ROSC patients who should be transported to a STEMI receiving facility per Policy #533-9 and 533-10.

Procedure:

All radio and telephone communication between field EMS personnel and Base Hospitals will conform to the following requirements:

1. A report to the Base Hospital is required on all patient contacts, whether or not the patient is transported. **Authorization to cancel must be requested while on scene.**
2. Non-transporting paramedics will contact the Base Hospital if he/she has initiated any advanced life support (ALS) procedures. If no ALS procedures initiated, either the transporting or the non-transporting paramedic may give report to the Base Hospital.
3. **The paramedic will follow ALS Protocols and contact the Base Hospital if orders are needed, or otherwise immediately upon leaving the scene. It is the responsibility of the paramedic to contact the Base and/or Receiving Hospital as soon as possible. The only factors which may delay such contact are those which directly affect safety or the acute medical needs of the patient.**
4. The paramedic will contact the Base Hospital within the Hospital Service Area
5. If the patient requests to be transported to the Hospital within the service area or has no request:

APPROVED:

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- a. If the patient is stable and, in the judgment of the paramedic, no ALS orders are required a limited report (defined in policy 306) will be given to the Base Hospital.
 - b. If the patient is unstable or, in the judgment of the paramedic, ALS orders are needed, a full report will be given to the Base Hospital.
6. Patients may be transported at their request to a hospital outside the Base Hospital service area, provided that:
- a. The requested hospital is no more than 30 miles away.
 - b. System status permits the ambulance to be out of service for an extended amount of time for the out of area transport.
 - c. If the patient is stable and, in the judgment of the paramedic, no ALS orders are required, a limited report is given to the Base Hospital and to the Hospital to which the patient is being transported.
 - d. If the patient is unstable or ALS orders are needed, a full report is given to the Hospital within the hospital service area. Authorization for transport outside the hospital service area is the responsibility of the Base Hospital physician. The Base Hospital will be responsible for contacting the hospital to which the patient is being transported and giving a report. The paramedic will then give any updated information and ETA to the hospital to which the patient is being transported.