

Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency
EMS System Policies and Procedures

Policy: Patient Destination

#530.00

Medical Director: _____

EMS Coordinator: _____

Creation Date: 05/23/2018

Revision Date:

Review Date: 05/2023

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220, 1798 and; Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 4, Section 100168 (b)(3).

II. PURPOSE

To provide guidance to Prehospital care personnel in arriving at the appropriate destination decision.

III. DEFINITION

- A. Most Accessible Facility: Means the nearest receiving hospital, taking into consideration traffic and weather conditions, or other factors, which clearly affect transport time.
- B. Most Appropriate Facility: means the nearest receiving facility having specialized services likely to be required by a patient, such as Trauma, STEMI, or Stroke Centers or other specialty service(s) defined in TCEMSA policy.
- C. Receiving Hospital: means an acute care hospital licensed under Chapter 2 (commencing with § 1250) of Division 2, with a permit for basic emergency service, as determined by the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) which is utilizing the hospital in the emergency medical services system.
- D. Unstable Patient: means patients with uncontrolled airway, uncontrolled bleeding, or deteriorating vital signs to the degree that it is reasonable to assume that death or preventable disability is imminent.

IV. POLICY

Patients should be transported to the facility of their choice whenever possible. When, in the opinion of Prehospital care personnel, the additional time required to travel to the requested facility may be detrimental to the patient or when the transport time would exceed one hour, Base Hospital Physician shall be contacted for destination decision. The patient's ability to pay or socioeconomic status shall not be considered when determining the destination.

- A. Unstable patients shall be transported to the Most Accessible Facility.
- B. Patients meeting specialty care triage criteria shall be transported to the Most Appropriate Facility.
- C. For stable and alert patients; the patient should be transported to the Receiving Facility of their, or legal guardian's, choice.
- D. For stable patients that cannot communicate their facility of choice; the patient should be transported to the facility;
 - 1. Family/Caretaker/Guardian's request
 - 2. Private Physician's request
 - 3. Facility where the patient traditionally received medical care
 - 4. Most Accessible Facility
- E. For stable patients that are custody of a law enforcement agency the patient should be transported to the facility of the custodial officer's choice.