



Policy 617: Out-of-County Transports

Revision 5/22/18
Effective 8/1/18

I. Philosophy:

- D. Unless otherwise specified herein, 911 patients transported by ground should remain in Santa Cruz County.
 - 1. Patients may request transport to either Dominican Hospital or Watsonville Community Hospital, unless otherwise prohibited by Santa Cruz County EMS Policy.
 - 2. Patients "in extremis" must be transported to the closest appropriate receiving facility (see Policy 621 *Patient Acuity Guidelines*)
- E. Red Criteria trauma patients (see Policy 626 Trauma Triage) will be automatically transferred to an out of county trauma center using the appropriate mode of transport in accordance with Policy 625 *Trauma Patient Transport and Hospital Destination*.
- F. Patients may be transported to a facility located outside of Santa Cruz County in accordance with Section II below.

II. Minimum criteria for out-of-county ground transport:

- A. Each of the following conditions shall be met:
 - 1. The patient is stable (no respiratory or cardiovascular instability)
 - 2. There remains an adequate reserve of ambulances to handle expected call volume
 - 3. Paramedic Supervisor authorization is provided.
 - 4. Reasons for out-of-county transport are clearly documented on the PCR.
 - 5. Transfers are limited to the following facilities:
 - a) Natividad Medical Center (Trauma)
 - b) El Camino Hospital Los Gatos
 - c) Good Samaritan Hospital (STEMI/Stroke)
 - d) Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (Trauma/Burn/Neuro/STEMI/Stroke)
 - e) Regional Medical Center (Trauma/STEMI/Stroke)
 - f) Stanford University Hospital (Trauma/STEMI/Stroke)
 - g) St. Louise Hospital
 - h) Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital (STEMI)
 - i) Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula



- j) Hazel Hawkins Hospital
- B. If each of the minimum criteria under Section IIA cannot be met the patient cannot be transported by ground out-of-county
- C. EMS units must expedite return to Santa Cruz County upon completion of the call. Netcom should be notified when a unit is available within Santa Cruz County boundaries.
- D. This policy does not apply to inter-facility or routine transfers or "state of emergency" situations.
- E. Out of County Transports are suspended during Phase II Critical Ambulance Demand Mitigation (see Policy 618 *Critical Ambulance Demand Mitigation*)