



Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County
Department of Public Health

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T #08-2021

TO: All Fresno/Kings/Madera/Tulare EMS Providers, Hospitals, First Responder Agencies, and Interested Parties

FROM: Jim Andrews, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Daniel J. Lynch, Director

Two handwritten signatures in black ink are shown. The top signature appears to be 'J. Andrews' and the bottom signature appears to be 'D. Lynch'.

DATE: September 9, 2021

SUBJECT: EMS Policy 571 – Assess and Refer – Update to allow transport of Patients from State Prisons and Coalinga State Hospital

This Special Memo is an update to Special Memo 07-2021 released on 9/4/2021. In accordance with EMS Policy 571, patients meeting the criteria for assess and refer shall no longer be transported to the hospital. This action has been implemented due to the continued deteriorating conditions at our hospitals in the EMS region (and valley).

Effective immediately, requests for transports from State prison facilities and the Coalinga State Hospital will be exempt from this policy and ambulances will provide transport upon request.

After several discussions with State officials, the staff at these facilities are very aware that the conditions regarding staffing and the capacity within our local hospitals and ambulance providers has become extremely critical. They realize that hospitals are operating at disaster levels and there is no patient bed capacity available.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Dale Dotson, EMS Coordinator at (559) 600-3387.