



Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County
Department of Public Health

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T # 06-2022

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

DATE: July 26, 2022

SUBJECT: EMS Policy 571 – Assess and Refer – Fresno County Hospitals.

Effective 0800 hours on July 27, 2022, and until further notice, ambulance providers shall implement EMS Policy 571 – Assess and Refer for patients requesting transport to hospitals in Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties. Due to the continued deteriorating conditions at our hospitals and impact to ambulance resources in the EMS region, this policy must be re-implemented to reduce the impact of patients with non-emergent medical conditions on emergency departments and the EMS system.

THE POLICY HAS BEEN MODIFIED:

The changes to policy include:

1. Heart Rate – Patients can be assessed and referred if their heart rate is between 50-100.
2. Respiratory Rate – Patients can be assessed and referred if the respiratory rate is 12-20

The conditions regarding staffing and capacity within our local hospitals and ambulance providers remain extremely critical. Hospitals are operating at disaster levels and there is no patient bed capacity. Most of our hospital emergency departments are holding a significant number of patients that require significant emergency department space and resources that are no longer available for emergency department use.

For the reasons described above, the EMS Agency is taking the step of directing ambulance providers to implement EMS Policy 571. **The intent of this policy implementation is to reduce the impact of patients on local emergency departments and increase availability of ambulances to our communities.** EMS providers need to assure that prehospital staff are familiar with the policy and updated vital sign criteria. Remember, if the paramedic/EMT has any doubt or concern, transport the patient.

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