

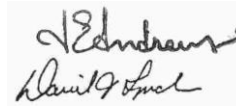
FILE #: F/K/M/T # 09-2022

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

FROM: Jim Andrews, MD, EMD Medical Director
Daniel J. Lynch, Director

DATE: November 30, 2022

SUBJECT: EMS Policy 571 – Assess and Refer



Effective immediately and until further notice, ambulance providers shall implement Policy 571 – Assess and Refer for patients requesting transport to hospitals in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties. Due to 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 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 current policy. Remember, if the Paramedic/EMT has any doubt or concern, transport the patient.

If you have any questions, please contact Mato Parker, EMS Coordinator at (559) 600- 3387.