



Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County
Department of Public Health

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T # 05-2023

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: September 12, 2023

SUBJECT: EMS Policy 571 – Assess and Refer

Two handwritten signatures are present. The top signature is in dark ink and appears to read 'J. Andrews'. The bottom signature is in lighter ink and appears to read 'Daniel J. Lynch'.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, ambulance providers shall implement EMS Policy 571 – Assess and Refer for patients requesting transport to hospitals in FRESNO COUNTY ONLY. 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 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 both ICU patients and medical/surgical admitted patients. These patients require significant emergency department space and resources that are no longer available for emergency department use.

The hospital capacity and staffing issue has a domino effect on the EMS system and causes more frequent and increased wait times for ambulances to turn over patients.

For the reasons described above, the EMS Agency is taking the step of directing ambulance providers to no longer transport individuals with non-emergency medical complaints that meet the criteria listed in 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.

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