



Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County
Department of Public Health

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T # 08-2023

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: November 14, 2023

SUBJECT: EMS Policy 571 – Assess and Refer

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. 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 capacity within our local hospitals 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 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 implement EMS Policy 571 in order to reduce the number of non-emergency patients seeking care at the emergency department. 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.