



EMS Special Memorandum - #23-001

Date: February 23, 2023

To: Mendocino/ Sonoma County EMS Providers and System Stakeholders

From: Bryan Cleaver
Regional EMS Administrator

Mark Luoto, MD
Regional EMS Medical Director

Re: Clarification to Administrative Guideline 4014 Stat ambulance Transfer

This memo is intended to clarify the intent of the current Coastal Valleys EMS Policy 4014 Stat Ambulance Transfer Policy.

To facilitate the emergency transport of critical patients between acute care facilities within Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, the EMS Agency developed Policy 4014 Stat Ambulance Transfer. Since the initial development, minor changes have been made to clarify the intent and scope of the policy.

The current language states that patients eligible for a Stat Ambulance transfer are limited to those being treated and located in an Emergency Department. In contrast, the EMS Agency would like to clarify that the policy is not intended to limit eligibility based on patient's treatment location. An example might be a patient in a critical care unit with a STEMI and no available interventional cardiology available at the facility.

This EMS Special Memo is intended to clarify that the Stat Ambulance Transfers Policy provides emergency transport for "acute, unstable patients in need of **immediate intervention** by a facility offering a higher level of care" **regardless of treatment location within an acute care facility.**

There is no change in the intent to limit the use of 911 ambulance resources to such critical cases. This clarification regarding patient location is not intended to expand the use of this policy to facilitate transfers of patients that are not in extremis or as a substitute for ALS or CCT transfer resources.

Changes are being drafted to the current policy to clarify intent, patient eligibility, and process. This EMS Special Memo is effective immediately. The current Stat Ambulance Transfer Policy will be released for public comment following the release of this EMS Special Memo.

Limited Term

The special memo accreditation process and any authorizations issued described herein shall be valid for a maximum of one year from date policy issuance in conformity with Sonoma County Code.

Please direct any questions or concerns to james.salvante@sonoma-county.org