

Coastal Valleys EMS Agency

Serving Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties



March 12, 2002

TO: All Emergency Department Nurse Managers,
Coastal Valleys Region

RE: Update on the Emergency Medical Services for
Children Project

Dear Colleagues:

Coastal Valleys EMS Agency would like to take this opportunity to update you regarding the Emergency Medical Services for Children Project. The first year of the project focused on need assessment and plan development related to prehospital provider care of children. This second year, now well underway, will focus on implementing Emergency Department guidelines for children throughout the Coastal Valleys Region.

Presently, the EMS-C Advisory Committee is reviewing and revising draft guidelines for standards for Emergency Departments within the region. The "*Standards for Emergency Departments Caring For Children*" address administrative support, guidelines for the education and responsibilities of ED nursing and physician staff, appropriate pediatric equipment, medication, and supplies, policies and procedures pertinent to children, and the integration of quality improvement activities for pediatric patients. These guidelines were first developed by the California State Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) in 1994; subsequently, many counties throughout the state have developed programs for the emergency care of children, tailoring the guidelines to the uniqueness of their individual counties.

During this second year, local Emergency Departments in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino Counties should begin to develop an internal implementation plan which will address the incorporation of these regional standards for care of children. Your hospital representative is already hard at work contributing to the development of standards that will be specific for the Coastal Valleys Region.

The CVEMSA staff will do everything possible to assist you in this endeavor. We plan to conduct site visits of all basic and standby facilities' Emergency Departments during the months of June, July, and August 2002. The purpose of this visit will be to assess each Emergency Department's progress on implementing the regional guidelines; to facilitate communication between community hospitals, referral centers, and the CVEMSA staff; and to provide consultative support to the local Emergency Department regarding pediatric care issues.

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Sonoma County Office
1030 Center Dr., Suite D
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At this time, the CVEMSA would like to ask that you **provide us with contact information regarding a facility representative who will coordinate the site visit in summer 2002.** Please contact Diane Claytor RN MS, Project Consultant, at: email: traumaqn@msn.com; or phone: 707.781.3972. You may also contact Mike Duvall, the CVEMSA Project Coordinator, at 707.565.6501.

Feel free to also call with any questions regarding the EMS-C project in the Coastal Valleys Region.

Thank you; we look forward to working with you in the development of a regional plan focused on the emergency care of children!

Sincerely,

Mike Duvall, CVEMSA Project Coordinator
Diane Claytor RN MS, EMS-C Project Consultant

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