

SUBJECT: **PREHOSPITAL CARE POLICY WAIVERS**

REFERENCE NO. 1142

PURPOSE: To identify prehospital care policies that may be implemented during times of disaster/emergency declarations or catastrophic events.

AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.94 and 1797.153 and Division 101, Section 101310
California Government Code 8559
Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator Program.

PRINCIPLES:

1. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency has developed standardized prehospital care policies that direct the practice of prehospital care related to treatment protocols, patient destination, scope of practice basic and response/transport unit staffing requirements {i.e., basic life support (BLS), advanced life support (ALS)}.
2. During a disaster/emergency declarations or catastrophic event, the overwhelming need for services could require modification from standardized policies, protocols, and procedures to best meet the needs of the County.
3. Requests for waivers or modifications to prehospital care policies shall be initiated by the EMS Provider/Hospital. Approval of waiver requests shall be from the EMS Agency Director, the Medical Director, or their designee.
4. The decision to apply policy waivers and other adaptations to the EMS system will generally occur after discussion and coordination between the EMS Agency, Local Health Officers and prehospital care providers.

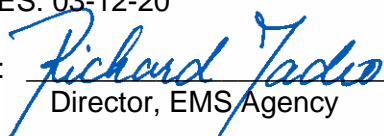
POLICY:


- I. An EMS Provider Agency may request the following waivers, directive or modifications by completing Ref. No. 1142.1, Prehospital Care Policy Waiver Request Form:
 - A. **ALS Unit Staffing Waiver**
Ref. No. 408, ALS Unit Staffing
 1. Allow ALS Units to respond to ALS calls staffed with only one (1) paramedic and one (1) emergency medical technician (EMT).
 - B. **ALS Unit Staffing Waiver for Private Providers**
Ref. No. 517, Private Provider Transport/Response Guidelines

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03-12-20
REVISED: 04-01-24
SUPERCEDES: 03-12-20

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

1. Allow private ALS Units that are not authorized to use 1:1 Staffing Configuration to operate staffed with only one (1) paramedic and one (1) EMT.

C. Patient Destination Waiver

Ref. No. 502, Patient Destination

1. Allow EMTs to transport ALS patients.
2. Allow EMS provider (ALS and BLS) to transport to an emergency department located greater than 15 minutes from the incident location.
3. Allow transport to designated alternate sites (other than the emergency department) located on the hospital's campus.

D. Hospital Designated Service Area Boundary Waiver

Ref. No. 502, Service Area Hospitals

1. Suspend Service Area Boundaries of hospitals with designated service areas.

E. Internal Disaster Directive

Ref. No. 503, Hospitals Requesting Diversion of ALS Units

1. The Medical Alert Center may place hospitals on Internal Disaster when hospitals report via ReddiNet that their Service Level is "Black". All other hospital request for Internal Disaster diversion must be approved by the EMS Agency AOD.

F. 30 Minute Specialty Care Center Transport Waiver (i.e. Trauma, STEMI, Stroke, Pediatric)

Ref. No. 506, Trauma Triage

Ref. No. 510, Pediatric Patient Destination

Ref. No. 511, Perinatal Patient Destination

Ref. No. 513, ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patient Destination

Ref. No. 521, Stroke Patient Destination

1. Allow ALS and BLS Units to transport to a more distant specialty care center that exceeds the 30-minute maximum transport time.

G. Out of County and Ambulance Operator License Exemption

Ref. No. 517, Private Provider Transport/Response Guidelines

1. Allow ambulance operators that are not licensed in Los Angeles County to operate within Los Angeles County.
2. Waive requirements that private ambulance operators must obtain consent from the 9-1-1 jurisdictional provider to dispatch and provide transportation services within the jurisdictional provider's geographic area.

H. Specialty Care (Nurse/RCP) Transport Unit Staffing Waiver

Ref. No. 517, Private Provider Transport/Response Guidelines

1. Allow Specialty Care Transport Units to operate with only one (1) EMT, and one (1) RN or one (1) Respiratory Care Practitioner.

- I. **Waiver to Refer 9-1-1 Type Calls to the 9-1-1 Jurisdictional Provider**
Ref. No. 517, Private Provider Transport/Response Guidelines
 - 1. Waive the requirement that private ambulance operators must refer any call that would normally be considered an emergency 9-1-1 call to the authorized emergency transportation provider for that geographical area.

- J. **Emergency Response Request Waiver**
Ref. No. 517, Private Provider Transport/Response Guidelines
 - 1. Waive all minimum response time requirements.

- K. **Sponsorship Waiver**
Ref. No. 1006, Paramedic Accreditation
 - 1. Waive the Los Angeles County Paramedic Accreditation requirement for paramedics licensed in California and practicing in a different county. Paramedics practicing under this waiver must adhere to the Los Angeles County Paramedic Scope of Practice (Ref. No. 803).