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*"To advance the health of our
communities by ensuring
quality emergency and
disaster medical services."*



Health Services
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

May 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: See Distribution

FROM: Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD
Medical Director, Los Angeles County EMS Agency

SUBJECT: COVID-19 UPDATE # 10: Rescind Ref. 834.1/834.2

This is to notify you of the intent of the EMS Agency to rescind **Ref 834.1 and 834.2** effective May 18, 2020.

As we have tracked the volume of EMS calls and also hospital capacity, it is now evident that the EMS systems has adequate capacity to care for patients. When the COVID-19 pandemic began it was not clear if our EMS system would be overwhelmed. In an attempt to fully align with public health order to stay at home, we had created 834.1/834.2 to provide COVID-specific guidance to allow for EMS providers to assess patients presenting with minor COVID-related complaints such as mild respiratory illness and/or fever without any high-risk features and treat and refer, per our policy.

Our standing policy on **Patient Refusal of Treatment/Transport and Treat and Release Ref. 834** will remain in effect. Going forward we will develop an Ad Hoc committee to review this policy and revise if indicated. This policy allows EMS providers to assess and treat and refer, versus signing out against medical advice, those patients without ANY evidence of an acute emergency condition, with normal vital signs and pulse oximetry, and who wish not to be transported. **Patients desiring transport, must be transported.**

Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication to outstanding patient care during this pandemic.

Distribution:

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Fire Chief, Fire Departments
CEOs, Ambulance Operators
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