



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
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"To advance the health of our communities by ensuring quality emergency and disaster medical services."

January 4, 2021

TO: Distribution

VIA E-MAIL

FROM: Cathy Chidester, MSN
Director, EMS Agency

SUBJECT: **REVISION #3 - 9-1-1 TRANSPORTATION OF PATIENTS WITH A POLST AND COMFORT- FOCUSED CARE DIRECTIVE (COVID SURGE DIRECTIVE #2)**

In a continued effort to assist with the current overcrowding of the emergency departments in Los Angeles County and the additional burden being placed upon EMS providers, the EMS Agency is providing the following temporary revision to Ref. No. 815, Honoring Prehospital Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR), Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and End of Life Option (Aid-In-Dying Drug).

Effective immediately and until further notice, all 9-1-1 patients that have a **POLST requesting only comfort-focused care**, and whose **acute needs are related to end-of life care**, will not be transported by 9-1-1 providers to an acute care facility.

APPLICATION:

1. **This directive only applies to patients who are currently in their end-of-life phase and are in a hospice facility, home hospice, skilled nursing or long term care facilities.**
2. This does not apply to patients who would otherwise require transport because of an emergency medical condition that is not related to terminal illness but happen to have a DNR or POLST.

EMS providers will perform a complete assessment including baseline status, and will review existing Advanced Health Care Directive or POLST with staff/caregivers/family to determine goals of care. For patients who fall within this directive, comfort measures (e.g., re-positioning, suctioning) based on need will be performed in their current location (i.e., home hospice, hospice facility, skilled nursing facility, long term care facility).

If there is a discrepancy regarding transportation of a patient, or the patient has no identified family or Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decisions, the base hospital is to be contacted and will determine patient disposition.

Please review this directive with your staff to ensure understanding and appropriate application. Thank you for your support of the EMS system in these extraordinary times. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (562) 378-1604, or Richard Tadeo, Assistant Director at (562) 378-1610.



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

Directive #2 – **REVISION#3**

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