SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF PROVIDERS OF ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICE

Date: 3/01/2011

I. **Authority:** Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.206, 1797.218, 1797.220; California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Chapter 4, Article 5.

II. **Purpose:** To approve and designate Paramedic service providers in San Diego County.

III. **Definitions:**

A. Advanced Life Support (ALS) response: Any medical aid call in which Paramedics are dispatched to the scene on a ground transporting unit, and/or any call that has been screened or prioritized in accordance with an approved dispatch plan as necessitating an advanced life support level of response.

B. Approved Dispatch Plan: A dispatch plan approved by the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Branch (EMS Branch).

C. Local Jurisdiction: a local jurisdiction is the County, a city, water district, fire protection district, or county service area.

IV. **Policy:**

A. To be designated as a Paramedic service provider in San Diego County, a local jurisdiction or air ambulance provider designated as a primary response air ambulance in accordance with the San Diego County Ambulance Ordinance, shall:

1. Enter into a written agreement with the EMS Branch to perform as a Paramedic service provider.
2. Provide ALS service on a continuous 24- hours per day basis.
3. Provide emergency medical responses in accordance with the following requirements:

a. Ground ALS Response: Ensure that at least two Paramedics are initially responded to each ALS response, and that a ground transport vehicle is simultaneously dispatched to all ALS responses, unless an alternate dispatch plan which has been approved by the EMS is in effect. In systems which respond ALS first responder units, the ALS first responder shall be equipped in accordance with EMS Policy P-806 "ALS First Responder Inventory".

b. Air Ambulance Response: Ensure that all primary response air ambulances are staffed in accordance with the provisions of the San Diego County Ambulance Ordinance, maintaining a minimum staffing level of one registered nurse and one Paramedic as flight crew.

4. Require that Paramedics establish base hospital contact as outlined in San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Policy S-415.
5. Require that paramedics maintain a current CPR card (Healthcare Provider/Professional Rescuer or equivalent).
6. Require that all Paramedics working as a part of the EMS system maintain San Diego County Paramedic Accreditation (Policy P-305).
7. Integrate with a first responder system.
8. Enter into mutual aid agreement with adjoining Paramedic agencies whenever possible.
9. Establish the following planned response times:

   a. Provide for a planned maximum ground ALS response time of no more than

30 minutes 90% of the time in rural areas and no more than *10 minutes 90% of the time* in urban areas. In systems that incorporate ALS First Responders, the provider shall plan for a maximum ALS First Responder arrival time of *8 minutes 90% of the time* with a maximum ALS ground transport response time of *12 minutes 90% of the time.*

10. Cooperate with the paramedic training agencies in providing paramedic field internship placements.
11. Provide orientation for first responder agencies to advanced life support functions and role.
12. Designate an agency paramedic coordinator.
13. Submit prehospital patient records via approved San Diego County EMS Form 104 or via electronic means.(as per Policy S-601).
14. Agree to participate in community education programs to teach the public 911 access and CPR.
15. Submit to the EMS Branch evidence of compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Article 5.
16. Participate in the County of San Diego EMS Quality Improvement Plan based on state and county regulations and policies.
17. Assess the current knowledge of their paramedics in local policies, procedures and protocols and skills competency.
18. Contract with a designated base hospital to provide medical direction and

supervision to assigned air medical Paramedic personnel (designated primary response air ambulance providers only).

B. The County of San Diego shall:

1. Approve paramedic curriculum and training programs.
2. Provide standard for accreditation/authorization and reaccreditation/ reauthorization of Paramedics and MICNs in the County.
3. Contract with designated base hospitals to provide immediate medical direction and supervision of assigned prehospital personnel.
4. Provide prehospital patient record forms or alternate electronic reporting mechanism
5. Review agreements with each Paramedic service provider every two years.