

SUBJECT: REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUND CRITICAL CARE
TRANSPORT SERVICES

Date: 07/01/07

- I. **Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220, 1797.222, 1798.172, San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances, Division 10, Chapter 6.
- II. **Purpose:** To identify minimum staffing and equipment requirements for ground critical care transport (CCT) services in San Diego County.

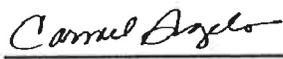
III. **Definitions:**

- A. CCT Service Provider: Any agency that routinely provides for hire the ambulance, personnel and/or equipment utilized to provide CCT services.
- B. CCT Service: The provision of non 9-1-1 ambulance services utilizing personnel, equipment, medications that provide a higher level of care than that of an ambulance staffed by emergency medical technicians (EMT-B or EMT-P) alone.
- C. Ground CCT vehicle – ground ambulance providing non 9-1-1 patient care and transport service that is staffed by a registered nurse or physician in addition to EMT-B's.

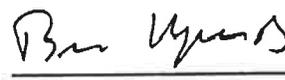
IV. **Procedure:**

- A. Ground CCT ambulances shall comply with all requirements established for BLS ambulances.
- B. Each CCT provider agency shall designate a medical director.
1. The medical director shall maintain a valid license as a physician in California.
 2. The medical director shall be responsible for all medical protocols and procedures followed by the CCT provider agency's staff.

Approved:



Administrator



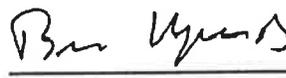
EMS Medical Director

3. The medical director for the CCT service shall ensure that a comprehensive, written quality assurance (QA)/quality improvement (QI) program is in place to evaluate the medical/nursing care provided to all patients. This QA/QI program shall integrate with the countywide prehospital QA/QI program. Any incidents that result in a negative patient outcome shall be reported to the San Diego County EMS Medical Director within 10 working days.
 4. The CCT provider agency medical director shall ensure that all nursing/medical staff on a CCT collectively possess the skills and knowledge to provide a level of care commensurate with the specific and anticipated needs of the patient. The CCT provider agency medical director shall be accountable for all medical procedures performed on board the CCT by agency staff.
- C. Staffing – CCT providers agencies shall adopt policies requiring the following:
1. All nursing/medical personnel shall maintain current appropriate licensure/certification.
 2. CCT provider agencies shall routinely staff all CCT vehicles with at least one (1) registered nurse or physician and two (2) certified or licensed patient care attendants. Two medical personnel shall remain with the patient during the transport.
 3. The nurse shall meet the following qualifications:
 - a. Possess a current California R.N. license.

Approved:



Administrator



EMS Medical Director

- b. Demonstrate clinical competence in resuscitation skills appropriate for age of transported patients (e.g. ACLS, PALS, PEPP, ENPC, NRP).
 - c. Possess two (2) years recent experience in critical care setting (ICU/CCU/ED/CCT).
 - d. Complete a formal orientation program to the CCT provider agency's policies, equipment, medical protocols.
4. A CCT provider agency shall provide service that is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
 5. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit a CCT provider agency from utilizing or maintaining additional staff on board the CCT.
- D. Equipment/Medication
1. All CCT ambulances providing service shall carry, as a minimum, the equipment/medication items listed in S-836.
 2. Agencies which provide pediatric and/or neonatal transport shall carry the pediatric inventory listed in S-836 (denoted by italics).
 3. CCT providers shall ensure that transport personnel are thoroughly trained in the safe operation of all patient care equipment utilized on board the CCT.
 4. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit a CCT provider agency from utilizing or maintaining additional equipment or medications on board the CCT, as long as patient care personnel are fully trained on the safe and effective use of that equipment or medication.

Approved:



Administrator



EMS Medical Director