

SUBJECT: TRAUMA CENTER BYPASS

Date: 7/1/2008

---

- I. **Authority:** Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Section 1798.163.
- II. **Purpose:** To establish criteria for trauma center bypass.
- III. **Policy:**
  - A. The in-house trauma surgeon is responsible for determining bypass status of his/her Trauma Center and will utilize the following criteria for making this determination. The Trauma Center may go on bypass status if one of the following criteria is met:
    1. Time (30 minutes) is needed to obtain a backup trauma surgeon, neurosurgeon or anesthesiologist because the primary physician is occupied with another trauma patient.
    2. Time (1 hour) is needed to identify a second operating room because the primary room is being utilized and another is not readily available.
    3. Two or more trauma patients with major injuries are being resuscitated in the trauma room (1 hour).
    4. The hospital is closed due to internal disaster.
    5. The trauma center is activated during an external disaster (Annex D).
    6. Time (1 hour) the CT scanner is being serviced or is broken. The trauma center can accept penetrating injuries excluding head or neck.
  - B. When a trauma center is on bypass, the patient should be redirected to another trauma center, taking into consideration transport time, the patient's medical needs and the institution's available resources.
  - C. Trauma center personnel will immediately enter both the initiation and reasons/conditions for bypass into the San Diego County Quality Assurance Network Collector system (QCS). At the time of change in condition of trauma center bypass status, trauma center personnel shall update the QCS.
  - D. The trauma center will provide reviews of variations from this policy to the Medical Audit Committee via the EMS Branch as requested for purposes of trauma system quality assurance.
  - E. A trauma center should use its best efforts to limit bypass to less than 5% of the total available hours on a monthly basis.

---

**Approved:**



Administrator



Medical Director