



County of San Diego

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ASSESS AND REFER OPTION FOR PATIENTS WITH INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI)

San Diego County is monitoring healthcare system stress related to the ongoing surge of respiratory infection. Surveillance measures include Ambulance Patient Offload Times and Emergency Department/Hospital crowding. To help mitigate system stress, the EMS Medical Director implemented a Temporary Emergency Policy, the **ASSESS AND REFER** option.

This “Assess and Refer” Policy option may be requested immediately, after appropriate education and training, and remains available for use until **February 28, 2023**. Requests for agency implementation shall be submitted via EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov.

To preserve critical 9-1-1 and Emergency Department/Hospital resources, eligible patients that do not require immediate 9-1-1 emergency ambulance transport to an Emergency Department may be referred to alternate resources.

All of the following conditions must be met in order to apply the “Assess and Refer” option:

1. The patient has a primary provider impression of ILI.
2. The patient and/or designated decision maker (DDM) demonstrates the ability to follow medical advice.
3. The patient must have timely access to communications, and reliable transportation outside the 9-1-1 system.
4. The patient must meet inclusion criteria as outlined in the appendix of [policy S-415A](#).

The “Assess and Refer” [patient disposition report template](#) is available online and shall be completed and emailed monthly to EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov, no later than the 15th day of the following month (i.e., November 15 for October’s report).

Thank you for continuing to provide outstanding care to our patients.

Respectfully,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office
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cc: Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Wilma Wooten, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer
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