



County of San Diego

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMS PEDIATRIC PATIENT DESTINATION DIRECTIVE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

County of San Diego EMS actively monitors the health of the 9-1-1 delivery system. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased demands on the county's entire healthcare continuum. In an effort to preserve critical healthcare resources in the county's adult acute-care hospitals, the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director has issued a patient destination directive for all 9-1-1 system patients ages 0-18.

Effective January 11, 2021, at 0800, all stable patients ages 0-18 encountered by EMS in the 9-1-1 system shall be transported to Rady Children's Hospital San Diego. This directive supersedes patient/family requests or medical home. This temporary modification of the [S-407](#) & [S-610](#) destination practice is to reduce the patient load in San Diego county's adult emergency departments. In consultation with the Base Hospital, unstable patients or patients with special circumstances in this age range may be transported to the most accessible and appropriate facility staffed, equipped, and prepared to administer care appropriate to the needs of the patient.¹

This directive will remain in place through March 8, 2021, unless health system measures – including ED bypass, EMS Transfer of Care, and overall hospital occupancy – indicate a need to extend.

Thank you for the outstanding care you provide to our patients, day in and day out. We recognize and appreciate your dedication during the special conditions of this pandemic.

Respectfully,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
Emergency Medical Services
County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

cc: Nick Yphantides, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator

¹ For incidents where a single ambulance transports an adult and a patient aged 0-18, both patients shall be transported to an appropriate receiving facility in consultation with the Base Hospital. Patients with burns shall be transported to the burn center. Patients with OB concerns >20 weeks may be transported to the appropriate Labor/Delivery facility.