



County of San Diego

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMS DOD BENEFICIARY PATIENT DESTINATION OPTION 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. As part of an overall strategy to preserve critical healthcare resources in the county's civilian acute care hospitals, the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director has issued a patient destination option to assist with systemwide load leveling.

Effective immediately, patients encountered by EMS in the 9-1-1 system determined to be DoD beneficiaries may be transported to either Naval Medical Center San Diego or Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. DoD beneficiaries include active duty military personnel and their dependents, and those with TRICARE coverage.

While transportation to DoD facilities has always been an option, it is especially important to consider during the current COVID-19 system strain on our local emergency healthcare delivery system. We thank our military partners for their support to the San Diego healthcare system by accepting DoD beneficiaries accessing the 9-1-1 system and for providing military ambulances to respond to 9-1-1 calls when the system is busy.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristi Koenig".

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office
San Diego County Fire

cc: Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Herman Reddick, Director
Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator