



County of San Diego

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DEACTIVATION OF THE ASSESS AND REFER 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. In an effort to preserve critical healthcare resources, the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director issued the **ASSESS AND REFER POLICY** outlined in [S-415A](#) on March 27, 2020.

As the county's healthcare situation has stabilized, the Assess and Refer Option shall end **May 1, 2021 at 0800**. EMS contacts after this date shall comply with standing County EMS policies, including [S-412](#) and [S-415](#). The Assess and Refer option may be rapidly reinstated should health system measures – including ED bypass, EMS Transfer of Care times, and overall hospital occupancy – indicate a need.

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