



# County of San Diego

**JEFF COLLINS**  
DIRECTOR  
(858) 974-5924  
Fax (858) 467-9662

**PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP**  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92123-1239  
[www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com)

**ANDREW (ANDY) PARR**  
EMS ADMINISTRATOR  
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations  
(619) 285-6429

December 16, 2022

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMT TRANSPORT OPTION FOLLOWING ON SCENE PARAMEDIC TREATMENT**

The San Diego County EMS Office actively monitors the health of the 9-1-1 delivery system. The ongoing surge in patients with respiratory infections has increased demands on the county's entire healthcare continuum. As part of a comprehensive strategy to preserve critical healthcare resources, including ambulance availability, the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director has issued a temporary adjustment to the paramedic ambulance transport requirements.

Effective **December 19, 2022, at 0700**, eligible patients who paramedics have treated may be transported by EMTs after paramedics make [Base Hospital contact](#) and provide a radio report. This transport option shall be applied only during periods of high system stress<sup>1</sup> when there is a critical need to preserve paramedic ambulance availability for life-threatening emergencies.

Patients eligible for EMT ambulance transport after on scene paramedic treatment:

- Improvement following a completed administration of a single dose of one of the following medications:
  - Naloxone
  - Dextrose or glucagon
  - Ondansetron
  - Acetaminophen
- Meet the following criteria:
  - Normal mental status for patient
  - Normal vital signs for adults<sup>2</sup> after the above treatments
    - SBP ≥ 90 mm
    - HR 60-100
    - RR 12-20
    - SpO<sub>2</sub> ≥ 94% on room air
  - No suspected cardiac or neurologic etiology for the presenting complaint
  - No suspected or known life threats
  - Does not meet [T-460/T-460A](#) trauma patient criteria
  - No anticipation of patient decompensation or deterioration

<sup>1</sup> All-Hazard Health Services Capacity Management [Plan Level 2](#) (Escalated Activation) or Level 1 (Full Activation) define periods of high system stress.

<sup>2</sup> Or [age-appropriate vital signs for pediatrics](#).

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- No anticipation of a need for additional medication to treat pain during transport or at the hospital prior to transfer of care
- No anticipated or indicated need for ongoing paramedic-level monitoring, assessments, or interventions<sup>3</sup>

The Base Hospital Order (BHO) for EMT handoff and transport, as defined in County EMS Policy [S-412](#), is waived under this time-limited transport option. Although a BHO is not required under this system capacity creation tool, paramedic base contact remains necessary to provide a patient report.

EMS personnel shall document in their respective ePCRs:

- The criteria for implementation of this EMT transport option have been met
- A field turnover was delivered to the EMT crew
- Transporting agency and unit number

Paramedic agencies shall review each use of this option for quality assurance purposes. Agencies exercising this EMT transport option shall provide weekly email reports to [EMSNotifications@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:EMSNotifications@sdcountry.ca.gov).

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

Respectfully,



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  
Jeff Collins, Director  
Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator

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<sup>3</sup> Includes end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub>/EKG monitoring, pain management, and any anticipated repeat doses of the listed medications