



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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April 27, 2021

P-801 (3)(a) & (9)(a) – TEMPORARY EXEMPTION/WAIVER GRANTED

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services Section Medical Director, as part of a comprehensive strategy to contain and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and in conjunction with recommendations from the Health Services Capacity Task Force's Operational Core Group, has issued authorization for a change in EMS Policy and Procedure.

I grant a temporary exemption **through 0800 on July 1, 2021** of the P-801 (3)(a) and (9)(a) ground ALS response requirements. These requirements are temporarily modified, as listed below:

- Two paramedics will not be required to be dispatched to an ALS response
- One paramedic may be dispatched to ALS responses via first responder OR ground transport vehicle, as available
- ALS response time criteria are waived to allow alternate response modes
- Communication centers utilizing standardized emergency medical dispatch (EMD) may triage medical calls and dispatch ALS or BLS resources, in accordance with a uniform set of guidelines. These modified dispatch plans would be implemented when certain metrics are met
- EMD-triaged calls as low-acuity may dispatch the following, based upon resource availability:
 - ALS or BLS transport units with or without First Responder
 - EMS providers using non-traditional EMS vehicle (e.g., van, SUV, shuttle, light-duty truck) staffed by a minimum of 1 paramedic
 - Calls may be held for resource availability (ALS or BLS)
 - Calls may be stacked for those that meet possible Assess and Refer dispositions

Prior to implementing these operational changes, agencies must contact County of San Diego EMS at MCSDEMSNotification.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov with a brief plan summary for review.

Agencies shall use existing Quality Improvement (QI) processes to ensure call triage and priority medical dispatch is appropriate. Call triage and priority medical procedures shall be refined accordingly.

Agencies shall cease using these response modifications when it is feasible to do so. When agencies return to the usual response requirements under P-801 (3)(a) and (9)(a), they shall notify County of San Diego EMS at MCSDEMSNotification.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Beginning October 1, 2020, agencies that have implemented one or more of these operational standards shall provide detailed end-of-the-month CAD reports and updates on EMS response modifications from P-801 to County of San Diego EMS. Details shall include but are not limited to, modified response date, time, and type of modified response. Reports for the prior month shall be due on the 15th of the following month (i.e., starting on November 15 for October's report).

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

Sincerely,

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

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

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator
EMS Agencies
EMS Dispatch Centers