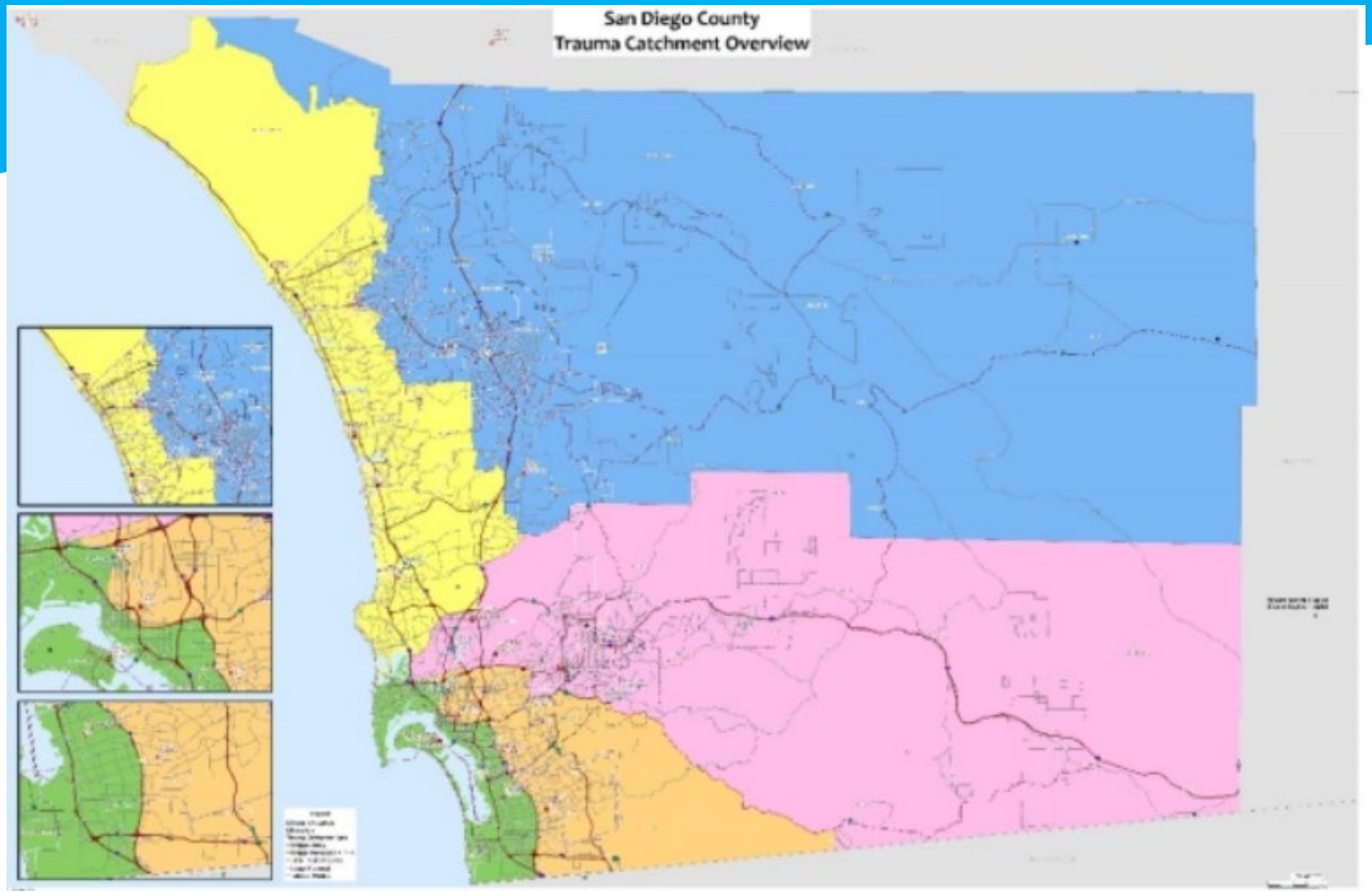
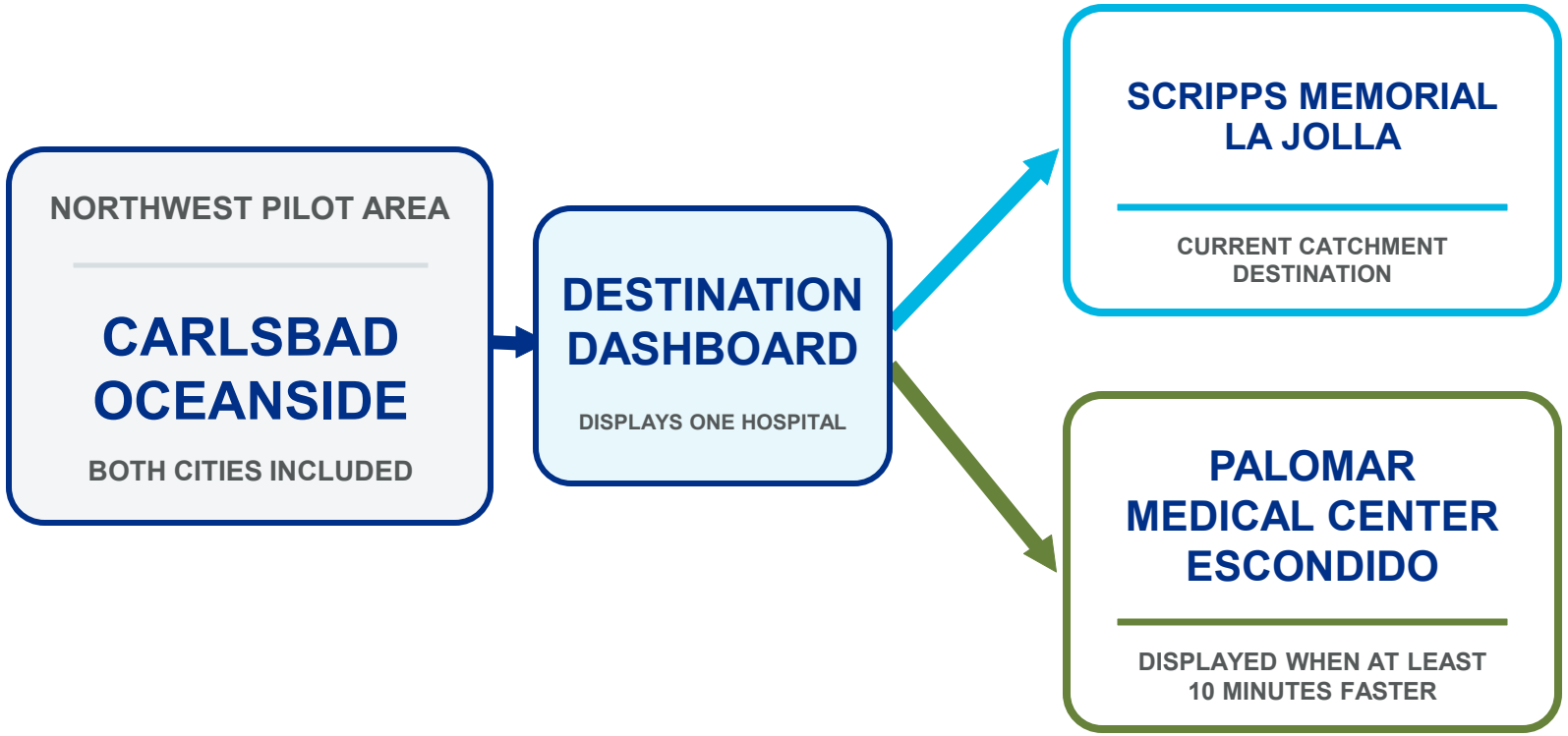
EMS Delivery System Redesign – Trauma Center Catchment Task Force

Northwest Trauma Destination Pilot

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES


San Diego County
Trauma Catchment Overview

Northwest catchment: current issue



Current approach

CoSD EMS Policy T-705 designates Scripps La Jolla as the adult trauma center for these cities.

Travel-time issue

For some incidents, location and traffic make Palomar Escondido at least 10 minutes faster.

Pilot proposal

During the pilot, the destination dashboard may display either Scripps La Jolla or Palomar Escondido for an eligible incident in either city. CoSD EMS Policy T-705 remains the fallback.

Pilot overview

WHO	Adult patients age 15 or older who meet at least one of the first three Major Trauma Victim sections in T-460A.
WHERE	Incident inside Carlsbad or Oceanside, regardless of which agency responds or transports.
WHEN	24/7 for 90 days. Start date TBD
HOW	The field crew determines eligibility and requests a major trauma destination. NCDJPA relays the hospital that the dashboard displays.
FALLBACK	Transport to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla unless it is on trauma bypass; if so, follow the existing bypass process.

The field crew determines eligibility

+ Included when all are true

- Incident is within Carlsbad or Oceanside city boundaries.
- Patient is age 15 or older.
- Patient meets mental status and vital signs, injury pattern, or mechanism criteria in CoSD EMS Policy T-460A.
- The crew plans ground transport.
- MCI or disaster destination coordination is not in effect.

x Not included

- Patients age 14 or younger.
- Special-consideration-only patients.
- Incidents outside the two cities.
- Patients who do not meet Major Trauma Victim criteria.
- MCI or disaster cases with destination coordination.
- Patients who are not transported.

Special considerations: A patient who meets the Special Considerations section but none of the first three T-460A sections is not included. A patient who also meets one of the first three sections remains included.

The dashboard applies the 10-minute cutoff

CoSD EMS configured the pilot destination dashboard to use current Google Maps drive-time estimates for Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla and Palomar UCSD Medical Center Escondido.

Palomar is at least 10 minutes faster

PALOMAR UCSD ESCONDIDO

OR

Any other time difference

SCRIPPS LA JOLLA

Both ground times exceed 30 minutes

The dashboard displays an air-medical consideration. The crew considers air transport under CoSD EMS Policy A-475.

Dispatchers and crews do not calculate or compare travel times.

NCDJPA accesses the dashboard through its shared FirstWatch account.

Pilot measures

Primary question: Did the patient go to the hospital that the dashboard displayed?

Overall destination match

Number and percentage of included patients transported to the displayed hospital.

Scripps La Jolla match

Among cases where the dashboard displays Scripps La Jolla, the percentage transported there.

Palomar match

Among cases where the dashboard displays Palomar, the percentage transported there.

Palomar transport rate

CoSD EMS will compare the pilot with the matched 90-day period before it began.

Individual review: CoSD EMS will review each eligible Major Trauma Victim case transported to a hospital other than the displayed destination and document the reason. CoSD EMS will summarize EMS and dispatcher feedback.

QM reporting and participant check-ins

Questions, concerns, or suggestions

EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov

- For a case-specific concern, include the event date and time.
- Include the EMS incident number.
- Include the relevant details or suggestion.
- Do not include protected health information in the email.

CoSD EMS will review submissions through the existing QM process under CoSD EMS Policy S-012.

Participant check-ins

CoSD EMS will begin with check-ins each week for EMS agency and NCDJPA representatives, then space them out if fewer issues arise.

30-day review

CoSD EMS will review destination match, Palomar rate, individual cases, staff feedback, and reported concerns.

60-day review

CoSD EMS will repeat the review and decide whether to change the pilot.

Final review after 90 days

CoSD EMS will complete the final review and return to the Task Force with recommendations.

Earlier review: CoSD EMS may review the pilot earlier if participants report a patient-care concern, the dashboard displays an incorrect destination, or access fails more than once.