

 <b>COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO</b> EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	SYSTEMS		<b>S-013</b>
	<b>QUALITY CARE CONSORTIUM</b>		
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## I. PURPOSE

- A.** To establish an advisory committee to the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) to monitor, evaluate, and report on the quality of prehospital medical care.
- B.** To promote countywide standardization of the quality management process with an emphasis on just culture, education, and improvement.
- C.** To review issues and matters of a systemwide nature and serve functions in the CoSD EMS Quality Management Plan. It shall not be the function of this committee to become directly involved in the disciplinary action of any specific individual. The authority for actual disciplinary action rests with the CoSD EMS Medical Director and/or the State EMS Authority in accordance with Section 1798.200 of Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

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- II. AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.122, 1797.204, 1797.220 and 1798; and Evidence Code, Sections 1040 and 1157 *et seq.*
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## III. DEFINITION(S)

**Quality Management (QM):** A systematic, continuous process for evaluating and improving the quality of prehospital care. It encompasses both quality assurance and quality improvement activities, focusing on the structure, processes, and outcomes of care delivery. Quality Management aims to ensure high-quality, equitable, and evidence-based patient care by identifying deficiencies, analyzing root causes, implementing corrective actions, and supporting data-driven system improvements

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## IV. POLICY

- A.** CoSD EMS is responsible for the oversight and supervision of the EMS system quality management process and communicating with all involved participants.

- B.** CoSD EMS is responsible for establishing, collecting, and analyzing data to support quality management activities. This includes, but is not limited to, dispatch, hospital, and EMS records, as well as the development and selection of quality management metrics across the full range of EMS care to analyze, summarize, and share QM data for quality improvement purposes.

**C. Responsibilities**

The CoSD EMS Medical Director's Quality Care Consortium (QCC) is established to provide review and advice for QM activities. The QCC responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Collaborating with CoSD EMS to implement, review, and monitor quality metrics in the CoSD EMS Quality Management Plan.
2. Selecting quality indicators, items for review and monitoring, creating action plans, and monitoring performance.
3. Serving as a forum to identify and discuss trends in prehospital care.
4. Promoting quality training throughout the EMS system.
5. Providing recommendations to the EMS Medical Director for enhanced EMS personnel training.

**D. Membership**

Membership shall be comprised of representatives from the various EMS system participants, including but not limited to CoSD EMS, EMS service providers, EMS training providers, EMS dispatch centers, emergency receiving centers, and designated specialty care programs.

**E. Attendance**

1. The CoSD EMS Medical Director may approve the attendance of guests during regular or ad hoc meetings of the QCC.

**F. Meetings**

1. The QCC shall meet monthly or at a frequency as determined to be appropriate by the CoSD EMS Medical Director, but no less frequently than quarterly.

**G. Confidentiality**

1. All proceedings, documents, and discussions of the QCC are confidential and pursuant to Sections 1040, 1157, 1157.5, and 1157.7 of the Evidence Code. The prohibition on discovering testimony provided to the committee applies to all proceedings and records of the QCC, which is established by a local government agency with the responsibility of evaluation and improvement of the quality of care rendered by prehospital and hospital personnel under the meaning of Evidence Code Section 1157 and Health and Safety Code Section 1797.188. It is organized to provide professional competence to monitor, evaluate, and report on the necessity, quality, and level of specialty health services, including but not limited to prehospital care services.

**San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office**  
**Policy / Procedure / Protocol**

2. Guests may be invited to discuss specific cases and issues to assist the QCC in making final case or issue determinations. Guests may only be present for the portions of the meeting related to those cases or issues they have been asked to review and testify about. Guests are bound by the same confidentiality provisions listed above.
3. All attendees shall sign a confidentiality agreement not to divulge or discuss information that would have been obtained solely through QCC attendance. Prior to new attendees participating in the meeting, CoSD EMS is responsible for explaining and obtaining a signed confidentiality agreement for invited guest(s).