

 <p><b>COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO</b> EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</p>	DATA COLLECTION		<b>S-610</b>
	<b>AMBULANCE PATIENT OFFLOAD TIME STANDARD</b>		
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## I. PURPOSE

- A. To ensure appropriate, timely, and patient-centered care transition from EMS personnel to receiving facility medical personnel.
- B. To establish standard ambulance patient offload time standards, as these are essential to public safety.
- C. To declare that timely ambulance patient offloads are in the best interests of the patient, the EMS delivery system, and the public's health and safety.
- D. To support the statewide standard methodology for calculating, verifying, and reporting ambulance patient offload time as defined in Health and Safety Code 1797.120.5 and developed by the California EMS Authority.

**II. AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.120, 1797.120.5, 1797.120.6, 1797.120.7, and 1797.123.

## III. DEFINITION(S)

**Ambulance Patient Offload Delay (APOD):** The occurrence of a patient remaining on the ambulance gurney and/or the receiving facility staff has not assumed patient care beyond the Local EMS Agency-approved APOT standard of 30 minutes.

**Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT):** The time interval between the arrival of an ambulance patient at a receiving facility and the time the patient is transferred to the receiving facility gurney, bed, chair or other acceptable location and the receiving facility staff assumes patient care.

## IV. POLICY

- A. All ambulance patient care transfers to receiving facility staff shall maintain a patient-centered focus.

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

- B.** EMS personnel are required to complete formal transfer of care.
- C.** Receiving facility personnel are required to document via the ePCR receiving facility signature when transfer of care is executed.
- D.** EMS personnel and receiving facility medical personnel shall ensure there is no interruption or delay in patient care while waiting for a formal transfer of care. All patient care by EMS personnel shall be documented according to CoSD EMS policies.
- E. APOT Calculations and Reporting**
  - 1. Transfer of care standard is within 30 minutes of arrival at the receiving facility.
  - 2. This standard will be measured and reported at the 90th percentile.
  - 3. The California EMS Authority will calculate, validate, and report APOT data using information provided by the LEMSA to CEMIS.