

Chapter: COUNTY Of SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Transfer Agreements

POLICY NO: S-007

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DATE: July 1, 2007

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1798.172.

I. PURPOSE

To ensure that all interfacility transfers of patients are accomplished with due consideration for the patients' health and safety

II. POLICY

- A.** All acute care hospitals in San Diego County with basic or comprehensive emergency departments shall comply with all applicable statutes and regulations regarding the medical screening, examination, evaluation, and transfer of patients that present the that hospital's emergency department.
- B.** All acute care hospitals shall comply with all applicable statutes and regulations regarding implementation of agreements to ensure that patients with an emergency medical condition who present at that facility, and that facility is unable to accommodate that patient's specific condition, are transferred to a facility with capabilities specific to that patient's need.
1. Hospitals shall develop the mechanisms or agreements necessary to ensure that patients requiring specialty services are appropriately transferred when that hospital is unable to provide that specialty service.
 2. Hospitals shall ensure the appropriateness and safety of patients during transfers by implementing policies and protocols which address the following:
 - a. Type of patient
 - b. Initial patient care treatment
 - c. Requirements and standards for interhospital care
 - d. Logistics for transfer, evaluation, and monitoring the patient