

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

SUBJECT: Requirements for Ground Critical
Care Transport Services

POLICY NO: S-835
PAGE: 1 of 3
DATE: July 1, 2007

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220, 1797.222, and 1798.172; and San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances, Division 10, Chapter 6.

I. PURPOSE

To identify minimum staffing and equipment requirements for ground Critical Care Transport (CCT) services in San Diego County.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Definitions

CCT Service: The provision of non 9-1-1 ambulance services utilizing personnel, equipment, and medications that provide a higher level of care than that of an ambulance staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-Basic (EMT-B) or EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P)) alone.

CCT Service Provider: Any agency that routinely provides for hire the ambulance, personnel, and/or equipment utilized to provide CCT services.

Ground CCT Vehicle: Ground ambulance providing non 9-1-1 patient care and transport service that is staffed by a registered nurse (RN) or physician in addition to EMT-Bs.

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POLICY NO: S-835
PAGE: 2 of 3
DATE: July 1, 2007

III. PROCEDURES

- A.** Ground CCT ambulances shall comply with all requirements established for Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances.
- B.** Each CCT provider agency shall designate a medical director.
1. The medical director shall maintain a valid license as a physician in California.
 2. The medical director shall be responsible for all medical protocols and procedures followed by the CCT provider agency's staff.
 3. The medical director for the CCT service shall ensure that a comprehensive, written Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Improvement (QI) program is in place to evaluate the medical/nursing care provided to all patients. This QA/QI program shall integrate with the countywide prehospital QA/QI program. Any incidents that result in a negative patient outcome shall be reported to the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) Medical Director within ten working days.
 4. The CCT provider agency medical director shall ensure that all medical/nursing staff on a CCT collectively possess the skills and knowledge to provide a level of care commensurate with the specific and anticipated needs of the patient. The CCT provider agency medical director shall be accountable for all medical procedures performed on board the CCT by agency staff.
- C. Staffing**
- CCT provider agencies shall adopt policies requiring the following:
1. All medical/nursing personnel shall maintain current, appropriate licensure/certification.
 2. CCT provider agencies shall routinely staff all CCT vehicles with at least one RN or physician and two certified or licensed patient care attendants. Two medical personnel shall remain with the patient during the transport.
 3. The RN shall meet the following qualifications:
 - a. Possess a current California RN license

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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POLICY NO: S-835
PAGE: 3 of 3
DATE: July 1, 2007

- b. Demonstrate clinical competence in resuscitation skills appropriate for age of transported patients (e.g., Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP), Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC), and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP))
 - c. Possess two years recent experience in critical care setting (Intensive Care Unit (ICU)/Critical Care Unit (CCU)/Emergency Department (ED)/CCT)
 - d. Complete a formal orientation program to the CCT provider agency's policies, equipment, and medical protocols
4. A CCT provider agency shall provide service that is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
 5. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit a CCT provider agency from utilizing or maintaining additional staff on board the CCT.

D. Equipment/Medication

1. All CCT ambulances providing service shall carry, at a minimum, the equipment/medication items listed in Policy S-836 "Critical Care Transport Unit Inventory".
2. Agencies that provide pediatric and/or neonatal transport shall carry the pediatric inventory listed in Policy S-836 "Critical Care Transport Unit Inventory".
3. CCT providers shall ensure that transport personnel are thoroughly trained in the safe operation of all patient care equipment utilized on board the CCT.
4. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit a CCT provider agency from utilizing or maintaining additional equipment or medications on board the CCT as long as patient care personnel are fully trained on the safe and effective use of that equipment or medication.