

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

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**SUBJECT:** Hospital EMS Radios

**POLICY NO:** S-881

**PAGE:** 1 of 3

**DATE:** July 1, 2017

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.103; and San Diego County Board of Supervisors Policy K-12.

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## **I. PURPOSE**

To set standards for all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Receiving Hospitals participating in the use of communications equipment capable of multi-lateral communications using the County's Regional Communication System (RCS) within the guidelines set forth in the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) EMS Plan.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Definitions**

Assignee Agreement:

The agreement signed by both the County and the Assignee which describes the terms of use and responsibilities of each party in support of the agreement.

Disaster Medical Communications:

The process of multi-lateral communication with the scene of a disaster (or exercise) to assure appropriate coordination of patient care and receiving hospital designation. The term disaster may include activations of the San Diego County Emergency Plan, Annex D.

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EMS Platform:

Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) level care as provided from air and ground ambulances, emergency vehicles (aircraft, marine, ground) capable of providing patient care (non-transport) and special assignment units as defined by County of San Diego EMS (CoSD EMS) Policy P-410 "San Diego County Special Assignment – Paramedic".

Hospitals:

Hospitals located within San Diego County who are designated as Base Station Hospitals, or Satellite Hospitals capable of receiving emergency patients on a 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year (24/7/365) basis.

Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA):

The regulatory body that oversees the provision of EMS throughout San Diego County.

Multi-lateral Communications:

EMS Communication occurs on three levels:

1. Unit to Unit (or Unit to Communications Center)
2. Unit to Hospital
3. Hospital to Hospital communications

Regional Communication System (RCS):

The County owned and operated Regional Communications (Radio) System. EMS system capabilities, permissions, and compatible equipment must meet the standards of the RCS as operated by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, Wireless Division.

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Regional Communication  
System (RCS) for EMS:

The 'Talk Group(s)' assigned on the RCS for the sole and exclusive use of CoSD EMS as set forth by San Diego County Board of Supervisors Policy K-12, Subsection 3.

San Diego County Board of  
Supervisors Policy K-12:

Policy designating CoSD EMS as the County's LEMSA and setting other standards for EMS.

### III. POLICY

All Hospitals operating in the LEMSA who may receive a patient will be assigned County owned EMS communications equipment and are required to have the communications equipment immediately available to the medical staff on a 24/7/365 basis so the facility can establish Disaster Medical Communications and/or monitor, coordinate, and provide EMS treatment direction and medical control as necessary. Any use of County owned equipment is in accordance with the County of San Diego Assignee Agreement.