

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

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**SUBJECT:** Trauma Catchment Service Area

**POLICY NO:** T-705

**PAGE:** 1 of 1

**DATE:** July 1, 2021

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798.161 and 1798.163.

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## **I. PURPOSE**

Designation of catchment service areas for each designated trauma center.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Definitions**

Trauma Catchment Area: Geographic area with defined boundaries assigned to a designated trauma center for purposes of care of patients identified as trauma candidates.

## **III. POLICY**

- A.** The adult patient who is identified as a trauma candidate will be transported to the most appropriate adult trauma center assigned per geographic designation per County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) Policy T-460 "Identification of the Trauma Center Candidate", the Trauma Catchment Area Boundary Guidelines, and the San Diego Trauma Catchment Maps.
- B.** The pediatric patient who is identified as a trauma candidate will be transported to the most appropriate pediatric trauma center per geographic designation per CoSD EMS Policy T-460 "Identification of the Trauma Center Candidate", the Trauma Catchment Area Boundary Guidelines, and the San Diego Trauma Catchment Maps.
- C.** The pediatric patient who is identified as a trauma candidate will be transported to the designated pediatric trauma center. When the pediatric trauma center is on bypass, including age specific bypass, the pediatric patient will be transported to the county designated backup pediatric trauma center University California San Diego (UCSD).

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**D.** Catchment geographic areas will be assessed every 10 years coinciding with national census results or as deemed necessary. This assessment will include but not be limited to:

1. Geographic locations
2. Prehospital transport times
3. Projected trauma patient volume
4. Projected population growth for trauma catchment
5. Current system impact
6. Hospital services available for trauma care
7. Pre-Hospital out of service/out of district times