



# County of San Diego

JEFF COLLINS  
DIRECTOR  
(858) 974-5924  
Fax (858) 467-9662

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92123-1239  
[www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com)

ANDREW (ANDY) PARR  
EMS ADMINISTRATOR  
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations  
(619) 285-6429

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## SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMS DOD BENEFICIARY PATIENT DESTINATION DIRECTIVE

On August 31, 2022, after consultation with the Health Services Capacity Task Force, the All-Hazard Health Services Capacity Management Plan was elevated to Plan Level 2, Escalated Activation, indicating increased health system stress. One strategy we have employed to successfully mitigate overall health system stress is transporting [DoD beneficiaries directly to military healthcare facilities](#).

When EMS personnel encounter patients, please determine whether they receive care at a DoD healthcare facility. For patients with a medical home within a military system, **EMS shall transport DoD beneficiaries to either Naval Medical Center San Diego or Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, whenever medically appropriate.** DoD beneficiaries include active duty military personnel and their dependents, and those with TRICARE coverage.

While transportation to DoD facilities has always been an option, it is especially important to implement this directive during the current system strain on our local emergency healthcare delivery system. This will better load level the county's healthcare system.

We thank our military partners for their support to the San Diego healthcare system by accepting DoD beneficiaries accessing the 9-1-1 system and for providing military ambulances to respond to 9-1-1 calls when the system is busy.

Thank you for the outstanding care you provide to our patients, day in and day out.

Respectfully,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director  
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office  
San Diego County Fire

cc: Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer  
Jeff Collins, Director  
Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator