



**PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE**

SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE
5560 OVERLAND AVE, SUITE 400, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1204
www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com

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

JEFF COLLINS
DIRECTOR
San Diego County Fire
(619) 339-0283

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EMS DELIVERY SYSTEM REDESIGN UPDATE: PREARRIVAL NOTIFICATION PILOT PROJECTS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUSPENSION OF PORTIONS OF POLICIES S-412 AND S-415

Starting in March 2026, the San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office (CoSD EMS) will implement several pilot projects to assess the best method for EMS prearrival notification to receiving hospitals. Multiple EMS agencies and hospitals will participate in various prearrival notification pilot projects. The goal of these pilot projects is to improve efficient communication between EMS clinicians and hospital emergency departments. The [Engage San Diego County](#) project page contains additional details.

Some requirements of the following CoSD EMS Policies will be suspended under specific conditions:
[S-412](#) *Prehospital Treatment and Transportation of Adults—Refusal of Care or Suggested Destination*, *Release*
[S-415](#) *Base Hospital Contact/Patient Transportation and Report – Emergency Patients*

For the duration of each of the respective pilot projects, Base Hospital contact requirements specified in Policies **S-412 (IV.D.1)** and **S-415 (IV.B.1–8, E.1)** are suspended for participating agencies in cases **when the following conditions are met:**¹

- the patient is being transported to a hospital participating in the same pilot program; **and**
- the transporting agency notifies that hospital via the specified pilot notification process.

All other provisions of these policies, including Base Hospital contact requirements, remain in effect regardless of whether agencies are participating in the pilot program.

Participating entities will receive detailed operational guidance and training prior to implementation of the pilot programs. Receiving hospital notification methods are specified in each model's training program.

CoSD EMS will conduct compliance monitoring during the pilot period to ensure patient safety and system integrity. At the conclusion of the pilot programs, CoSD EMS will engage the EMS Delivery System Redesign Steering Committee and Core Group to assist with outcome evaluation to inform future policy updates.

We look forward to your collaboration as we implement these pilot projects to modernize coordination between prehospital and hospital systems, and to build a patient-centered, efficient, and equitable EMS delivery system across San Diego County.

Sincerely,

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

Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office
San Diego County Fire

Enclosure: "Base Hospital Contact Requirements Remain in Effect for Each of the Following Situations During the Pilot Program"

¹ Base Hospital contact requirements per S-412 and S-415 remain in effect for all other circumstances (see enclosure).

**BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT REQUIREMENTS REMAIN IN EFFECT
FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS DURING THE PILOT PROGRAM**

Transport to a receiving facility not participating in the same pilot model, e.g., Escondido Fire (ImageTrend pilot) transporting to Scripps Encinitas (Pulsara pilot)

Selected receiving center does not have current capacity to accept the patient (e.g., on diversion)

Non-transported patient meets Base Hospital contact criteria per Policy S-415 (e.g., AMA or release at scene)

Patient refuses treatment or transport and at high risk of poor outcome per EMS clinician judgement

Patient requests transport to facility not equipped to manage medical condition

EMS clinicians seek online medical direction or consultation on clinical presentation, treatment, or disposition of patient

Patient meets trauma or burn center criteria and is not being transported to a hospital participating in the same pilot program (includes patients meeting trauma "special considerations" criteria)

Request for a Base Hospital Physician pronouncement of death

Multiple-patient incidents, including MCI/Annex D activations