



County of San Diego

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ANNUAL COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMS PROTOCOL UPDATES

After soliciting input from the EMS community, including EMS educators, the Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators, the county fire agencies, and private EMS providers, I have decided to continue with rapid implementation of new COVID-related protocols immediately, i.e., before the regular July 1 cycle, and defer the planned changes to the existing EMS treatment protocols from July 1, 2020, until July 1, 2021.

We very much appreciate the hard work and dedication the EMS community has provided over the past months to inform changes to existing protocols. Upon thorough review, we have determined that are no essential updates needed for the current protocols. Conversely, there are critical policy, protocol, and other systems updates needed to protect our providers and optimize care for our patients during this unprecedented pandemic.

County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services reviews every treatment protocol annually. Protocol revisions are typically smaller updates on odd-number years and more substantial changes on even-numbered years. For the even-numbered year revisions, County EMS staff convene a task force made up of key EMS agency staff, community EMS leaders and educators, and base hospital staff to identify areas for improvement, standard of care changes, and any new regulatory requirements affecting practice. We have captured all the good input provided during this protocol cycle and will apply it to future updates. In the meantime, we will focus on changes in those protocols or procedures critical to managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to the implementation of new initiatives put in place to protect our workforce, stop the spread of the virus, and provide continuing outstanding care to our patients.

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
Emergency Medical Services
County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator
EMS Provider Agency Coordinators
EMS Training Programs
Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators