

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

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**SUBJECT:** Transfer of Stable Trauma Service  
Health Plan Members

**POLICY NO:** T-716

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**DATE:** December 1, 2007

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798.163 and 1798.172.

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**I. PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines for transfer of stable trauma patients to their health plan's facility

**II. POLICY**

- A.** It is the intent of the trauma system to transfer stable trauma patients to their health plan provider's facility when requested, as long as such transfer is medically prudent and in the best interest of the patient. All requests/discussions concerning transfer status of the patients will be made physician to physician. Transfer agreement will be based on patient condition and appropriateness of receiving facility resources.
- B.** Unless otherwise decided by the trauma surgeon of record, no patient requiring acute care admission will be transferred to a hospital that is not a designated trauma center in less than 24 hours.
- C.** The decision as to transfer of post-operative, intensive care, or other acute care patients lies solely with the trauma surgeon of record.
- D.** Hospitals which have accepted transfer of a trauma patient from a designated trauma center shall:
  - 1. Provide the information required to complete the trauma registry on that patient to the transferring trauma center.
  - 2. Participate in system and trauma center quality improvement activities for that patient who has been transferred.
- E.** Trauma center candidates care for at San Diego County designated trauma centers may require extensive diagnostic evaluation or immediate treatment. Trauma center evaluation does not necessitate preapproval by the patient's insurer.