

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

I. PURPOSE

To provide an overview of EMS communication.

II. RELATED POLICIES

- A. Ambulance Supply and Equipment Requirements, #5002
- B. ALS Nontransport Supply and Equipment Requirements, #5005
- C. EMS Aircraft, #5100
- D. Prehospital/Hospital Contact, #7001
- E. Communication Failure, #7002
- F. Radio Communications, #7003
- G. Destination Guidelines, GPC 04

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Physician Consult* – contact made for the purpose of receiving treatment guidance or advice.
- B. *Report Only* – contact made for the sole purpose of advising the receiving facility of the pending arrival of a patient and of that patient's condition in sufficient detail to allow a decision to be made regarding the need for trauma team activation.
- C. *Early Notification* – a communication meant to provide an early alert to hospital staff that a specialty care patient is en route.

IV. POLICY

- A. The use of the 9-1-1 universal emergency number is to be encouraged by all system participants for use in an emergency.
- B. All system participants shall participate in efforts to educate the public on the appropriate use of the 9-1-1 system.
- C. System participants are required to have, maintain, and utilize designated communications equipment as may be detailed in policy, contract, MOU, or other written agreement.
- D. BLS and ALS Treatment Guidelines and the Trauma Triage Tool will specify requirements for field to hospital contact, indicating the need for hospital consultation or receiving hospital notification and the point at which that contact should occur.
- E. If the patient is being transported out of Marin County, contact with the receiving hospital should be made in accordance with the destination county policies and procedures. In general, this would require contact via cell phone or via Marin County Sheriff's Office Communications Center to insure that the facility can accommodate the patient.