

INTERFACILITY TRANSFER POLICY

PURPOSE

To provide direction and policy for interfacility transfers by certified EMS providers in Marin County.

RELATED POLICIES

- 5001 General System Operations
- GPC 5 Interfacility Transfer Procedure

AUTHORITY

Health & Safety Code 1797.200, 1797.218, 1797.222
 Marin County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7.60, "Ambulance Transportation Services"
 Marin County Board of Supervisors Resolution 96-41

DEFINITIONS

1. *Interfacility Transfer* – The movement of a patient by ambulance from one healthcare facility as defined below to another healthcare facility.
2. *Rapid Re-triage* – An emergent interfacility transfer of a trauma patient from an Emergency Department to a designated Trauma Center.
3. *Certificate of Operation* – annual certificate issued by the Marin County EMS Agency to a private ambulance company doing business in Marin that has met all regulatory requirements.
4. *Certified EMS Provider* – A private ambulance company with a current certificate of operation, authorized by the County to provide ambulance services.
5. *Zone Provider* – Fire Department ambulance service having a primary zone provider contract or its subcontractors according to the Marin County EMS Plan
6. *Permitted Ambulance* – An ambulance with a current permit from the Marin County EMS Agency.
7. *Healthcare Facility* – Licensed healthcare facilities as described in Table 1

Table 1

Sending Healthcare Facilities allowed by this policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acute care hospitals ● Long Term Acute Care (LTAC) facilities ● Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) ● Urgent care centers, institutional infirmaries, clinics, and physicians' offices with MD, DO, PA, NP or RN in attendance 	Examples of nonqualified facilities (not exhaustive): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board and care facilities ● Assisted living facilities ● Senior living housing ● Private residences
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POLICY

- A. In Marin County, interfacility transfers must be conducted by a certified EMS provider except for the following cases:
 - 1. A transfer that originates in Marin and terminates outside Marin.
 - 2. A transfer that originates outside Marin and terminates in Marin.
- B. Interfacility transfers requiring ALS, CCT, or other level of specialty care (e.g., neonatal, bariatric, infectious disease, etc.) must use a unit staffed and equipped for that level of care.
- C. Certified Marin County EMS providers may transfer patients, at a level of service they are permitted to provide, as ordered by physicians from qualified healthcare facilities.
- D. From nonqualified facility locations:
 - 1. Unscheduled transfers shall be provided by the primary zone provider according to the Marin County EMS Plan 5004
 - 2. Scheduled transfers may utilize BLS transportation to appointments, etc. (i.e. dialysis, wound care)
- E. Fire Department 911 ambulance services may be utilized by any healthcare facility for the transfer of a patient with an immediately life-threatening condition (e.g., STEMI, stroke, trauma, etc.)
- F. In cases of an emergent transfer request when a requested certified EMS provider does not have a permitted ambulance available, the hospital or provider may:
 - 1. Contact other certified EMS providers to conduct the transfer.
 - 2. Utilize a non-permitted ambulance from any certified EMS provider and submit an EMS Event Form to the EMS Agency for CQI review.
 - 3. Request an ambulance from a non-certified EMS provider and submit an EMS Event Form to the EMS Agency for CQI review.
 - 4. For ALS or CCT emergent transfers, if no provider is able to provide the level of service required, the sending facility may send personnel qualified to maintain patient care utilizing ambulance resources as indicated above and submit an EMS Event Form.
- G. Except for CCT level emergent transfers, Code 3 responses are only permitted to be conducted by zone providers through County Communication Center dispatch.
- H. For outgoing interfacility transfers requiring the use of an air ambulance, the transferring hospital shall contact Sheriff's Communication Center to dispatch appropriate fire department units to secure the emergency landing zone.
- I. Receiving interfacility transfers by air ambulance directly to the facility is not allowed in Marin except under extraordinary circumstances.
- J. In the case of a disaster where no certified EMS provider is available, non-permitted ambulances from a non-certified EMS provider may be used to transfer patients.
- K. A list of current certified EMS providers shall be maintained on the Marin EMS Agency website at www.MarinEMS.org