
INTERFACILITY TRANSFERS

PURPOSE

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

RELATED POLICIES

5200, Medical Mutual Aid, Multiple Patient Management Plan

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 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. *Permitted Ambulance* – An ambulance with a current permit from the Marin County EMS Agency.
6. *Emergent Transfer* – Patient requires immediate transportation by ambulance to another facility for a higher level of care (e.g., STEMI, stroke, trauma, etc.).

POLICY

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. An immediate interfacility transfer of a rapid re-triage or confirmed STEMI patient may be conducted by a Fire Department provider that provides 911 ambulance services.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. Receiving interfacility transfers by air ambulance directly to the facility is not allowed in Marin except under extraordinary circumstances.
- 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,
 3. Request an ambulance from a non-certified EMS provider and submit an *EMS Event Form*

to the EMS Agency for CQI review.

- G. 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.
- H. A list of current certified EMS providers shall be maintained on the Marin EMS Agency website at: www.MarinEMS.org