

SPECIALTY PATIENT

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

I. DEFINITION

A Specialty Patient is a patient with unique medical or behavioral prehospital needs which fall outside current county protocols.

II. PURPOSE

Medical technology and increased home health capabilities have created a special population of patients that may interface with the EMS system. The purpose of this policy is to provide specifically approved care and EMS services to those who are identified as Specialty Patients. The Agency will work with that patient (and/or DDM) and his or her primary care physician in order to develop and approve a Specialty Patient Protocol (SPP) which will provide guidance to EMS should the need arise.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Active and Current SPP in place

1. COMM center will notify first responders of SPP enroute to call
2. Responding EMS units are to follow current SPP for that particular patient which has been approved by the Marin County Medical Director and which will be located in the lock box of all ALS units and with the inventory checklist of all BLS units.
3. Unless specified in the SPP, transport the patient according to Destination Guidelines GPC 4. In some cases, if the patient is stable, transport may involve bypassing the closest facility for a more distant yet medically appropriate destination.
4. If the patient or DDM requests changes to their current protocol, the transporting unit will contact the intended receiving facility for physician consult. Personnel shall not exceed their established scope of practice.

B. No SPP in place

1. When an EMS provider identifies the possible need for an SPP, the provider shall contact their immediate supervisor and the provider's Medical Director (i.e., a fire department may be notified by a patient's physician that the patient is in need of an SPP).
2. If the possible need is identified during the course of rendering care to a patient, the provider shall treat the patient according to existing protocols. At the conclusion of the call, the provider shall contact their immediate Supervisor and the provider's Medical Director.

C. All established and approved SPPs will be written on official Marin County letterhead and signed by the current Marin County EMS Agency Medical Director. Issue date and expiration date will be included.

D. Current SPPs will be reviewed annually as part of Policy and Procedure updates.