

SUBJECT: **ROUND ROBIN PATIENT DESTINATION**

PURPOSE: To establish a procedure for St. Francis Medical Center, as the primary base hospital, to distribute patients located in the geographical area previously served by Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital (MLK-H) emergency department but outside of defined hospital service areas.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100168

DEFINITIONS:

Round robin: A means of distributing patients equally among hospitals when the 9-1-1 system in a specific geographic region is stressed due to a hospital emergency department (ED) closure.

The geographic boundaries of the round robin, excluding service area boundaries, are:

North: Florence Avenue
South: El Segundo Blvd.
East: Long Beach (710) Freeway
West: Avalon Blvd.

Round robin hospitals are:

St. Francis Medical Center (SFM)
Downey Regional Medical Center (DCH)
Lakewood Regional Medical Center (DHL)
Kaiser Foundation Bellflower (KFB)
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center (LBM)

Primary base hospital: A base hospital selected by the EMS Agency to determine patient destination for paramedic provider agencies responding to 9-1-1 calls in the region affected by the emergency department closure.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Optimal patient care is maintained when patients are transported to a facility equipped, staffed and prepared to administer emergency care in a timely manner.
2. Distributing 9-1-1 patients equally among receiving facilities in the geographic region impacted by an ED closure helps reduce stress on the EMS system and maintain patient care resources in the affected area.
3. Any squad or rescue ambulance (RA) in the round robin geographic area shall call SFM base for destination.

EFFECTIVE: 10-01-08
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SUPERSEDES: 10-1-08

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

POLICY:

I. Role of the Primary Base Hospital (SFM)

A. General Patient Distribution

1. A list of the 9-1-1 receiving hospitals in the affected area will be maintained in the base hospital radio room. As paramedic calls from the defined area are received, patients shall be directed to each hospital on the list in succession, excluding patients in extremis.
 - a. A patient in extremis is one exhibiting an unmanageable airway or uncontrolled hemorrhage.
 - b. Trauma patients shall be transported according to Reference No. 504, Trauma Patient Destination.
 - c. Pediatric patients shall be transported in accordance with Reference No. 510, Pediatric Patient Destination.
 - d. Perinatal patients shall be transported to the most accessible receiving facility appropriate to their needs in accordance with Reference No. 511, Perinatal Patient Destination.
 - e. ST Elevation MI patients shall be transported in accordance with Reference No. 513, STEMI Patient Destination.
 - f. Stroke patients shall be transported in accordance with Reference No. 521, Stroke Patient Destination.
2. The primary base hospital shall consider the patient's location and the diversion status of surrounding hospitals when determining patient destination.
3. Patients shall not be transported to a medical facility that has requested diversion due to internal disaster.

B. Specific Provider Agency Destinations

Units responding into the geographical area formerly served by MLK-H shall contact SFM base for medical direction and round robin destination. Paramedics shall report the jurisdictional area they are in, e.g., "This is Squad 16 and we are in our own area" or "This is Squad 54 and we are covering for Squad 16".

1. Los Angeles County Fire Department
 - a. Squads responding into Fire Station 54, 147 and 148's jurisdictional area should go to SFM.

- b. SFM, if on diversion, should consider sending squads covering Fire Station 16's jurisdictional area to HGH, LAC+USC, or LBM, whichever is the most accessible receiving facility.
 - c. Squads responding into Fire Station 41's jurisdictional area shall participate in the round robin and will call SFM for destination to include SFM, HGH, DCH or LBM.
2. When responding in the geographic area previously served by MLK-H, Los Angeles Fire Department RA 65 and RA 265 should call SFM for destination.
3. When directing Compton Fire Department (CM) RA 441 and RA 442, LBM should consider their own facility, Gardena Memorial Hospital, DHL, and St. Mary Medical Center as possible destinations.
 - a. If CM is within the round robin geographic boundaries as outlined in this policy, they have a round robin patient and should contact SFM for destination.
 - b. If CM is outside of the identified round robin geographic boundaries but not in a service area, they should contact their assigned base hospital for destination.
4. Per Reference No. 502, Patient Destination, patient requests for transport to health plans, e.g., Kaiser Foundation facilities, should be evaluated as to whether the patient's condition is stable enough to tolerate a longer transport time and the request would not unreasonably remove the ALS unit from its primary area of response.

II. Receiving Facilities in the Geographic Area Previously Served by MLK-H

- A. In unusual circumstances that overwhelm ED resources, a round robin hospital may contact the Medical Alert Center (MAC) and request temporary relief from the process.
- B. In unusual circumstances that overwhelm ED resources, service area hospitals may contact MAC and request a temporary lifting of the service area. If all hospitals surrounding the requesting facility are closed to ED saturation, the EMS Agency Administrator on Duty (AOD) will deny the request. If at least one facility is open, the AOD may grant the request on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Private ambulance transports from the MLK-H Multi-Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) should go to Harbor-UCLA or a facility as arranged by the Medical Alert Center. If the MACC calls 9-1-1 for a patient, that patient is in the round robin and the ALS unit shall contact SFM for a destination.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:

Reference No. 502, **Patient Destination**

Reference No. 504, **Trauma Patient Destination**

Reference No. 510, **Pediatric Patient Destination**

Reference No. 511, **Perinatal Patient Destination**

Reference No. 513, **STEMI Patient Destination**

Reference No. 521, **Stroke Patient Destination**