DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

(EMT, PARAMEDIC,MICN)

SUBJECT: **CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM** REFERENCE NO. 805

PURPOSE: To ensure that provider agencies and base hospitals have access to the California Poison Control System (CPCS) and have a mechanism in place for quality improvement and problem resolution.

AUTHORITY: California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 9, Articles 1 and 2.

DEFINITION: **Poison Control Center:** A facility designated by the EMS Authority that provides information and advice to the public and health professionals regarding the management of individuals who have or may have ingested, inhaled or otherwise been exposed to poisonous or possibly toxic substances.

APPROVED POISON CONTROL CENTERS:

The following sites have been designated by the State EMS Authority as answering points for the California Poison Control System:

- UC San Diego Medical Center
- UC Davis Medical Center
- San Francisco General Hospital
- Children's Hospital Central California

CALL THE CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM TOLL FREE AT: **1-800-222-1222** or access the website at www.calpoison.org.

This number may be accessed by health professionals, 9-1-1 providers, and the public 24 hours/day, 7 days/week and 365 days/year.

POLICY:

I. Provider Agency Dispatch Centers may:

A. Contact the CPCS to access information and advice regarding the management of individuals who have, or may have, ingested or otherwise been exposed to poisonous or possibly toxic substances.

B. Elect to establish three-way communication between the CPCS, the Dispatch Center and the 9-1-1 caller.

C. Utilize information provided by CPCS to determine whether a 9-1-1 response is indicated and, if so what level, and/or to provide pre-arrival instructions to the caller.

D. Relay information to field personnel.

II. Paramedics shall contact the assigned base hospital for information and advice regarding the management of individuals who have, or may have, ingested or otherwise been exposed to poisonous or possibly toxic substances.

III. Base hospitals may contact the CPCS to access information and advice regarding the management of individuals who have, or may have, ingested or otherwise been exposed to poisonous or possibly toxic substances when the base has been contacted by prehospital personnel.

IV. Quality Improvement/Problem Resolution

Questions or concerns related to the CPCS should be documented on a Los Angeles County EMS Situation Report and referred to the Los Angeles County EMS Agency for follow-up.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Prehospital Care Manual:
Reference No. 808, **Base Hospital Contact and Transport Criteria**