

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 1030
Effective Date: 7/1/2023
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TRAUMA SYSTEM

I. PURPOSE

- A. To identify the role and responsibilities of the Monterey County EMS Agency as they relate to the trauma care system.
- B. To ensure that trauma patients are treated at an appropriate facility, regardless of geopolitical boundaries, and to facilitate trauma care coordination with neighboring systems.
- C. To establish limitations on direct-to-consumer advertising by trauma centers that is intended to influence patient flow.
- D. To promote patient flow in a manner that meets patients' clinical needs while considering the economic impact of patient flow decisions.
- E. To mitigate the expense to the Monterey County EMS Agency for the implementation and management of the trauma system.
- F. To establish the service areas for trauma patients in Monterey County.

II. TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

- A. **Monterey County EMS Agency Role and Responsibilities** - As the lead agency for the Monterey County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system, the Monterey County EMS Agency is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing the trauma care system. These responsibilities include:
 - 1. Assessing needs and resource requirements;
 - 2. Developing the system design, including the number of Trauma Center(s), and determining patient flow patterns;
 - 3. Assigning roles to system participants, including designation of the Trauma Center(s);
 - 4. Working with the designated Trauma Center(s) and other system participants, and with neighboring EMS systems, on outreach and mutual aid services;
 - 5. Development of a trauma data system, including a trauma registry at the Trauma Center, trauma data collection from non-Trauma Centers, and prehospital data collection;
 - 6. Monitoring the system to determine compliance with appropriate state statutes and regulations, LEMSA policies, procedures, and contracts, and taking corrective action as needed;
 - 7. Public information and education;

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8. Overseeing quality assurance processes;
9. Reviewing clinical cases and unusual occurrences involving the EMS trauma system; and
10. Evaluating the impact of the system and revising the system design as needed.

B. Designated Trauma Center(s) Requirements

1. To obtain and maintain designation as a Level II Trauma Center, a hospital must comply with all standards in the California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7, Article 3. Trauma Center Requirements §100259. Level I and Level II Trauma Centers, the standards contained within the current version of the American College of Surgeons' Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient, and meet the requirements specified in Monterey County EMS System Policy 5060: Trauma Center Standards.

III. Trauma Service Area

- A. The Trauma Service Area is the entirety of Monterey County.

IV. Trauma Marketing and Advertising

- A. The following shall guide the approval of the term "trauma" and "Trauma Center" in marketing and advertising for Trauma Centers within Monterey County:
 1. Shall provide accurate information;
 2. Shall not include false claims;
 3. Shall not be critical of other providers; and
 4. Shall not include financial inducements to any provider or third parties.
- B. Titles may include the word "trauma" in staff position titles.
- C. The request to advertise and/or incorporate the term "Trauma Center" in promotional materials shall be made in writing to the Monterey County EMS Agency. The Monterey County EMS Agency shall respond in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written request. No use of the term "trauma", "Trauma Center", or similar terminology may be used without authorization by the EMS Agency.

V. Trauma Center Coordination with Health Systems

- A. The Monterey County EMS Agency field triage policy does not consider the patient's insurance status in determining the destination of patients who meet trauma triage criteria. Since patients who require trauma center services may not require this level of service once they have been stabilized, the Trauma Center should consider the need to return patients who are insured by HMOs and other managed health care organizations to their payer's network at a medically-appropriate time.

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- B. The Trauma Center shall make a good faith effort to negotiate agreements with HMOs and other managed health care organizations regarding payment, repatriation of patients, and other related factors.
- C. The Trauma Center shall cooperate with HMOs and other managed health care organizations in their efforts to identify the appropriate level of care for their members, including non-emergency treatment and the location of services provided.
- D. Nothing in this policy is intended to suggest that the Trauma Center should limit the treatment provided to members of HMOs and other managed health care organizations in violation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), other state or federal law, or good medical practice.

VI. Trauma System Fees

- A. Trauma Center Application Fee: A Trauma Center application fee will be established to cover the costs associated with the designation process. These costs may include contract costs for plan development, Requests for Proposal (RFP) development, review of proposals, out-of-area site team costs, and legal reviews and agency costs in excess of the costs associated with the day-to-day trauma system regulation. The Trauma Center application fee will be assessed for hospitals applying for Trauma Center designation. Fees paid that are in excess of actual costs will be returned to applicants.
- B. Trauma Center Designation Fee:
 - 1. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors will establish a Trauma Center designation fee. This fee covers the cost of monitoring the operation of the trauma care system in compliance with state trauma care systems, regulations, and regional policies. The fee will be based on the time requirements of the trauma medical director, trauma coordinator, and other staff activity dedicated to trauma issues as well as associated overhead and program support costs.
 - 2. The Monterey County EMS Agency will provide the designated Trauma Center written notice of any increase in the designated fee at least 180 days (6 months) prior to the effective date of the increase with an explanation for the increase and the basis on which it was calculated.
 - 3. If the amount is not agreeable to the designated Trauma Center and resolution of the amount cannot be reached prior to the effective date of the change, or any later date as mutually agreed upon in writing by the parties, then either party may terminate the Agreement without penalty. A written notice of 180 days must be made to the other party to terminate the Agreement. If the Agreement is terminated, the designation fee in existence at the time notice is given will be prorated until termination.

VII. Mutual Aid Coordination with Neighboring Systems


- A. Monterey County EMS will coordinate its trauma care system with those in neighboring systems to ensure that patients are transported to the most accessible trauma facility equipped, staffed, and prepared to administer care appropriate to the needs of the patient.

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Written mutual aid agreements will be executed as necessary to ensure coordination with neighboring systems.

1. The Monterey County EMS Agency will coordinate with neighboring LEMSAs to develop and maintain appropriate trauma services to address the comprehensive needs of trauma patients in the region.
- B. When patients from Monterey County are transported to a Trauma Center in another EMS system, the Monterey County EMS Agency will request injury/outcome data from the LEMSA or destination hospital, as needed for database management and EMS system quality assurance review.
- C. When trauma patients from another EMS system are transported to a Monterey County EMS receiving hospital, the receiving hospital will provide injury/outcome data to the LEMSA from which the patient originated.
- D. Monterey County-based EMS providers are expected to cooperate with EMS agencies in other counties in data collection and evaluation efforts regarding patients who are served by the Monterey County EMS System.

END OF POLICY


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