

Monterey County EMS System Policy



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INTERFACILITY TRANSFER-PHYSICIAN ORDERS

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for patient management when the sending physician provides orders for patient care during interfacility transfer from an acute care hospital to another acute care hospital, skilled nursing facility, or patient residence.


II. POLICY

- A. Paramedics and EMTs function under the direction of the EMS Medical Director through established policies, protocols, and procedures, and through on-line medical control provided by the Base Hospital physician.
- B. Paramedics and EMTs may carry out written orders from a California-licensed physician for patient care during an interfacility transfer, provided the orders do not exceed Monterey County scope of practice for the paramedic or EMT functioning as the primary medical provider during the interfacility transfer.
- C. Physician orders and/or patient care needs that exceed the scope of practice for Monterey County paramedics and EMTs shall be provided by a healthcare provider who is trained, authorized, and credentialed to provide such care during the interfacility transfer.
- D. If needed, medical direction from a Base hospital physician shall be obtained as described below.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Upon arrival at the sending facility and before placing the patient on the ambulance gurney, EMS personnel shall consult with the medical staff and shall review any physician orders pertaining to the interfacility transfer. EMS personnel shall confirm the presence or absence of medication to be administered or procedures to be provided during the interfacility transfer, including medication or procedures to be provided as needed.
- B. EMS personnel shall not transport a patient who has written orders for care that exceeds their scope of practice. In such cases, EMS personnel shall promptly notify medical staff at the sending facility of the issue. The transfer may proceed if the orders are changed to be within the EMS provider's scope of practice.
- C. If the treatment ordered is within the Monterey County scope of practice but requires Base Hospital physician authorization, the paramedic or EMT shall contact the Base Hospital physician for authorization prior to initiation of the interfacility transfer.

END OF POLICY


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