



San Joaquin County

Emergency Medical Services Agency



<http://www.sjgov.org/ems>

Mailing Address
PO Box 1020
Stockton, CA 95201

Health Care Services Complex
Benton Hall
500 W. Hospital Rd.
French Camp, CA 95231

Phone Number
(209) 468-6818

Fax Number
(209) 468-6725

Policy Memorandum No. 2006-01

DATE: April 4, 2006

TO: All EMS Participants

FROM: Richard N. Buys, M.D., Medical Director
Dan Burch, EMS Administrator

SUBJ.: Rerouting of Ambulance Patients

Effective immediately the EMS Agency is invoking a moratorium on the practice of rerouting ambulance patients from one emergency department to another emergency department as previously authorized by EMS Policy No. 550-06. Hospitals experiencing acute emergency department saturation may continue to proactively use the diversion provisions of EMS Policy No. 550-06 until such time that new diversion policy is adopted.

The current diversion provisions of EMS Policy No. 550-06 allow an acute care hospital's emergency department the ability to close to ambulance traffic, except any patient being transported code three (3). A hospital's administrator may place an acute care hospital emergency department on diversion for up to a two (2) hour period without EMS Duty Officer approval. A one (1) hour extension may be granted at the discretion of the EMS Duty Officer. The hospital's emergency department may not go on diversion until twelve (12) hours from the end of its last diversion, without approval of the EMS Duty Officer.