

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 544
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References		Effective 04/18/83

I. POLICY

Prehospital personnel shall contact a Base Hospital as appropriate for treatment instructions and medical consultation.

II. PROCEDURE

A. ALS personnel shall contact an appropriate Base Hospital in accordance with EMS Policy #530 series (Paramedic Treatment Protocols).

B. All prehospital personnel shall contact an appropriate Base Hospital for any patient who refuses medical care or transportation and meets one or more of the following criteria (see Patient Refusal of Care or Transportation Screening Form (attached):

1. All patients under the age of 18 with no parent, guardian or conservator on scene;
2. Any barrier to communication (i.e., language, deaf, unreliable interpreter, etc.);
3. All patients with symptomatic psychiatric illness;
4. All patients who are not competent due to alcohol or drug use;
5. All patients with a Glasgow Coma Score less than 15 (or, in patients whose GCS is less than 15, any decrease from the patient's normal GCS);
6. All patients where family or bystanders are expressing concern about the patient's decision;
7. All patients where the EMT or Paramedic has concern or question about the patient or patient's parent/guardian/conservator's competency.

Approved By	Daniel J. Lynch	Revision
EMS Division Manager	(Signature on File at EMS Agency)	
	Miranda Lewis, M.D.	01/21/2025
EMS Medical Director	(Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

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8. All patients in the following categories:
 - a. All patients ≤ 5 years of age
 - b. Patients age ≥ 70 years with the following complaints
 - i. Chest pain
 - ii. Suspected stroke
 - iii. Syncope or hypotension
 - iv. Traumatic mechanism, including ground level fall, with evidence of head trauma, chest trauma, or neurologic deficits.

- C. All prehospital personnel (EMT or Paramedic) shall contact an appropriate Base Hospital for any patient whose destination is to a facility other than an acute care hospital (refer to Policy #547).

- D. All EMTs and Paramedics in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties shall utilize appropriate Base Hospital's based upon the patient's destination.

- E. EMTs and Paramedics in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties shall contact the hospital that they are transporting the patient to. If Base Hospital contact is required, EMS Personnel shall contact the appropriate Base Hospital. The Base Hospital will notify the receiving facility.

- F. Multi-Casualty Incident - Base Hospital contact shall be made as soon as possible as outlined in EMS Policy #620.

- G. Special Circumstances – EMTs and Paramedics shall utilize the appropriate Base Hospital according to the following special circumstances:
 1. Base Hospital Unavailable - If the EMT or Paramedic is unable to contact the Base Hospital, he/she shall contact another Base Hospital. If the EMT or Paramedic makes reasonable attempts to contact *two Base Hospitals*, utilizing all available resources (i.e., radio, telephone), and is unable to reach either one, the EMT or Paramedic shall treat according to radio failure protocols.

 2. When selecting a Base Hospital for a Refusal of Medical Care and/or Transportation (RMCT), the EMT or Paramedic should contact the Base Hospital closest to the incident site. For patients, age 14 years and less, the EMT or Paramedic should contact Valley Children's Hospital for a Refusal of Medical Care and/or Transportation (RMCT). If unable to contact Valley Children's Hospital, the EMT or Paramedic should contact a Base Hospital closet to the incident site.