

 <p>County of San Diego EMS A Division of San Diego County Fire</p>	TRIAGE TO ALTERNATE DESTINATION	TAD-1050
	CRITERIA FOR PATIENT TRANSPORT TO VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) MEDICAL CENTER EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT	
	Date: TBD	Page 1 of 2

I. PURPOSE

To define criteria for triage to alternate destination of patients who identify as veterans and request to be transported to a local Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center Emergency Department (ED) for treatment.

II. AUTHORITY: Sections 1797.107 and 1830, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, and 1820, Health and Safety Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 5, Sections 100181.

III. DEFINITION(S)

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Emergency Department (VA Medical Center ED): A facility owned and operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that provides emergency department services for eligible persons, i.e., veterans.

IV. POLICY

- A. Only paramedics who have completed a County-approved triage to alternate destination course may utilize this option.
- B. In all cases, the health and well-being of the patient is the primary consideration in determining patient destination. Factors to be considered include severity and stability of the patient's illness or injury; status of the receiving facility; anticipated transport time; requests by the patient, family, guardian, or physician; and EMS personnel and base hospital judgment.
- C. The patient must identify him/herself as a veteran and express a desire to be transported to the local VA Medical Center Emergency Department. A verbal attestation is sufficient for identification purposes.
- D. Triage paramedics shall screen the patient to ensure needs are met based on the criteria outlined below.

1. If all criteria are met, triage paramedics shall confirm the destination with the base hospital prior to transport.

V. ATTACHMENT: VA MEDICAL CENTER ED SCREENING TOOL

Patients must meet **all** criteria. Otherwise, transport the patient to the nearest appropriate facility.

The patient identifies him/herself as a veteran and requests to be transported to the VA Medical Center ED.
The patient is 17 years or older. *
The patient does not require specialty care, e.g., pregnancy >20 weeks gestation, labor and delivery, pediatrics, major trauma, burn injury, STEMI, or stroke. †

* Servicemembers may be as young as 17 years old. Do not transport patients who are younger than 17 years old to the VA Medical Center ED.

† The VA Medical Center ED is a Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS)-designated facility that can receive psychiatric patients accompanied by law enforcement and Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT).