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## **CLARIFICATION FOR AUGMENTED SERVICE CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT PROVIDERS**

This memo is intended to provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of critical care transport (CCT) providers, as outlined in the San Diego County Regulatory Ordinance Section 610.700. It will describe the key elements of the two primary local models of CCT provision and identify the criteria required for these models.

The EMS Office defines these two models as *Ground Ambulance Integrated CCT Services* and *Augmented Service CCT Providers*.

**Ground Ambulance Integrated CCT Services** are entities offering ground ambulance service, retaining agency-affiliated registered nurses, maintaining all required CCT equipment, and having an integrated medical director. These self-contained entities provide all aspects of critical care transport service.

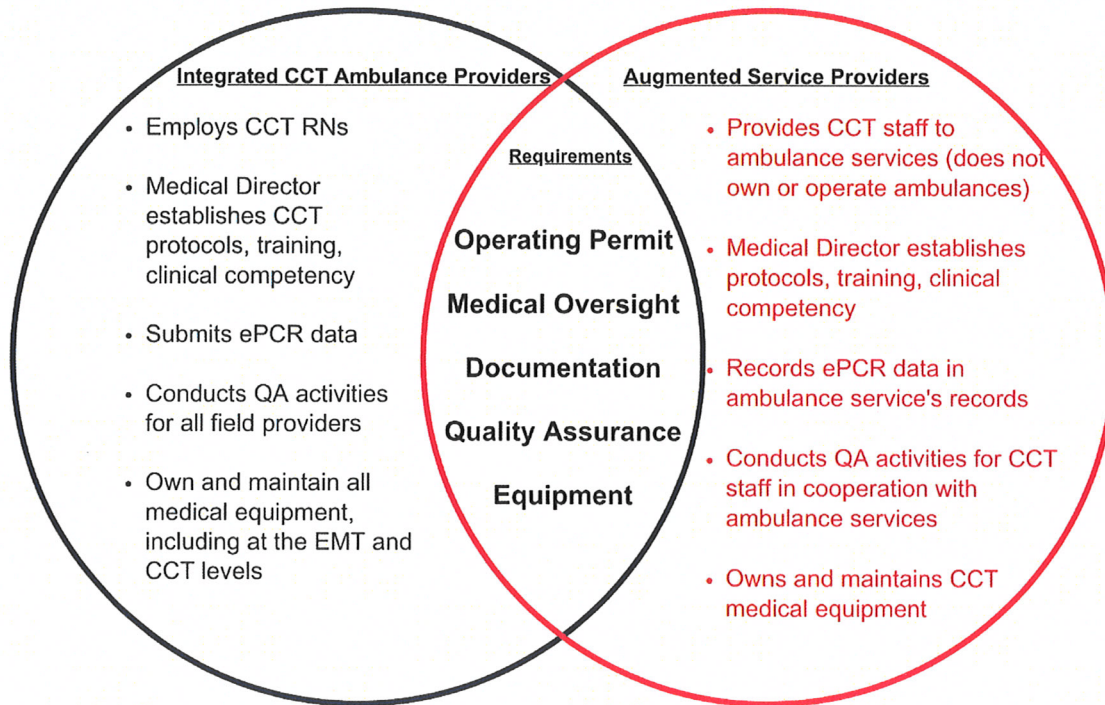
**Augmented Service CCT Providers** are entities that do not own or operate ground ambulances but may offer personnel to augment existing permitted ground ambulance services. These augmented services providers commonly employ or contract with licensed Registered Nurses (RNs). Augmented Service CCT Providers may maintain advanced medical equipment under the authorization of a licensed physician medical director. Augmented service CCT providers provide CCT RN staff to one or more permitted ground ambulance services. Augmented Service CCT Providers are independent operators providing specialized prehospital services.

The EMS Office sorts CCT Provider requirements into the following categories:

- San Diego County EMS operating permit
- Medical director oversight, including clinical orders
- Patient Care Report (PCR) documentation capabilities
- Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement programs
- Equipment standards



To illustrate the key elements of integrated CCT providers and augmented service CCT providers, the below diagram compares these models:



If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the San Diego County EMS Office permit officer at [EMSAmbulancePermitting@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EMSAmbulancePermitting@sdcounty.ca.gov) or (619) 285-6429.

Sincerely,

Andrew (Andy) Parr, EMS Administrator  
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office  
San Diego County Fire

cc: Paul Forney, President, Ambulance Association of San Diego County  
Claudia Rempel, Vice-President, Ambulance Association of San Diego County