



County of San Diego

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To: Trauma Center CEOs and Medical Directors

DESTINATION POLICY FOR PATIENTS MEETING PREHOSPITAL TRAUMA CENTER CRITERIA

San Diego County trauma system longstanding practices have consisted of rotating hospital destinations on a multi-week or monthly basis for patients encountered at or near the international border that meet prehospital trauma center criteria. Trauma Medical Directors report a crisis level of system stress creating unsustainability of these informal practices.

San Diego County EMS has existing policies for trauma patient distribution that mitigate system stresses. All trauma patients, as defined in policy [T-460 Identification of the Trauma Center Patient](#), shall be managed under policy [T-705 Trauma Catchment Service Area](#). Trauma centers experiencing surges or overload may initiate diversion under policy [T-712 Trauma Center Bypass](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support of San Diego's world-class trauma system.

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office
San Diego County Fire

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator

Jeff Collins, Director

Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, FACEP, Interim Agency Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dimitrios Alexiou, FACHE, President and CEO Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties