



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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Director

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

Policy & Procedure Title:	Emergency Medical Services Agency		
Category:	200-299 Program Policy	Policy No.:	201
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DHS Division/Unit of Origin:	Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency		
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Distribution: DHS-wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If not DHS-wide, other distribution:		

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency, as required by the Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, to oversee the delivery of emergency medical services in Los Angeles County.

POLICY:

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services EMS Agency is the designated local EMS agency and has primary responsibility for the planning, implementation and evaluation of the emergency medical services system within Los Angeles County. Essential functions, as defined in Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR) that the EMS Agency performs include:

1. Serving as a patient advocate ensuring all prehospital care patients have access to the same care
2. Planning, implementing, evaluating, and continually improving local EMS systems including prehospital services and relevant hospital services such as trauma, stroke, heart attack and pediatric care, which include the designation of trauma centers and other specialty care centers
3. Coordinating activities and communications between various agencies that provide EMS system services so that seamless care is provided to the patient (e.g., emergency medical dispatch, first responders, ground and air ambulance, receiving hospitals, trauma centers, other specialty care centers)

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is to ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

Revision/Review Dates:

Department Head/Designee Approval: Signature on File

4. Developing/approving medical treatment protocols and policies for local EMS service providers (EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, and Mobile Intensive Care Nurses)
5. Determining ambulance patient destinations based upon hospital resources
6. Establishing policies for emergency department diversion and implementing mitigation strategies where diversion is excessive
7. Coordinating Multi Casualty Incidents with prehospital care providers to include patient destination determination
8. Providing oversight for EMS quality improvement and quality assurance activities
9. Collecting, analyzing, and reporting on EMS data locally and providing required data to the State EMS Authority (EMSA) for statewide system evaluation
10. Establishing and maintaining local EMS communication systems
11. Establishing exclusive operating areas for emergency ambulance service, as appropriate, and contracting for those services
12. Certifying, accrediting, and authorizing EMS field personnel
13. Authorizing and approving local EMS training programs
14. Coordinating community education programs regarding injury prevention, CPR, public access defibrillation
15. Developing local medical and health disaster plans and coordinating medical and health response to disasters (natural and man-made)
16. Convening the EMS Commission who act in an advisory capacity to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Director of the Department of Health Services regarding policies and standards for emergency medical care services
17. Mediating conflicts between various EMS stakeholders (e.g., ambulance, fire, hospitals, physicians)
18. Collaborating with other health officials to ensure a unified, coordinated approach in the delivery of prehospital care
19. Carrying out regulations relative to EMS systems (the State EMSA promulgates regulations but local EMS Agencies carry out those regulations)
20. Providing technical assistance to EMSA
21. Resolving consumer complaints
22. Providing information to public officials
23. Advocating for sufficient and stable funding for emergency medical services
24. Advocating for Los Angeles County issues through representation and participation on State committees and associations

REFERENCES/AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5 (California Emergency Medical Services Law)
State of California, Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Division 9:Prehospital Emergency
Medical Services