

**STANISLAUS COUNTY EMS AGENCY  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**POLICY: 958.30  
TITLE: STANISLAUS COUNTY  
AMBULANCE DIVERSION  
POLICY**

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office  
Executive Director  
  
Signature On File In EMS Office  
Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE 5/1/2013  
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**STANISLAUS COUNTY AMBULANCE DIVERSION POLICY**

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.

II. PURPOSE

To assure prompt notification of diversion status throughout the EMS System so that emergency patients are transported to the most accessible medical facility that is staffed, equipped, and prepared to administer emergency care to the needs of the patient.

III. POLICY

It is not the policy of Stanislaus County EMS Agency to promote diversion of patients in Stanislaus County unless unusual situations apply. When it is appropriate, hospitals may divert patients according to the following conditions.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Types of Diversion

1. Inoperable CT scanner
2. Internal Disaster
3. Inoperative Cardiac Cath Lab

B. Hospital Eligibility for Diversion

1. CT scanner inoperative
  - i. If a hospital's CT scanner is inoperative, diversion of specific ambulance patients may be considered. These patients may include those with:
    - a. Suspected Stroke
    - b. New onset of altered consciousness for traumatic or medical reasons
2. Internal Disaster
  - i. A hospital is eligible for internal disaster divert whenever a "physical plant" internal disaster has occurred that has rendered emergency department services unavailable to the public.
3. Cardiac Cath Lab Inoperative
  - i. If a STEMI Receiving Center's cardiac catheterization lab becomes inoperative due to maintenance or equipment failure, diversion of STEMI alert patients may be considered in accordance with SCEMSA STEMI Triage and Destination Policy 530.00.

C. Procedure for requesting, implementing and canceling diversion status

1. Obtain authorization from hospital administration according to hospitals internal procedure
2. Update appropriate diversion status on EMSsystem
3. If diversion is anticipated to be longer than eight (8) hours, notify the Agency Duty Officer.
4. To re-establish normal operations, the hospital will update appropriate diversion status on EMSsystem.

D. When a hospital ED reaches internal surge limit the Agency Duty Officer must be contacted immediately.