EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHER (EMD) PROGRAM APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION OF EMD DISPATCHERS

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1. The approved training program for Emergency Medical Dispatch in San Mateo County is the Medical Priority Dispatch Program of the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch (Medical Priorities, Inc.). No other programs or systems are approved.

2. DEFINITION

- 2.1 An Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) is a person employed by a service providing dispatch of a designated emergency ambulance service in San Mateo County and who has been authorized by the EMS Medical Director in accordance with this policy.
- 2.2 Level II Priority Dispatching is characterized by an EMD who is responsible for determining, through the use of key medical questions, whether the call is a life threatening, or non-life threatening emergency. The dispatcher takes action on the request and, using established guidelines, determines the level and type of response. In all cases, a response is dispatched. This level of service includes pre-arrival instructions when indicated.

3. AUTHORIZATION TO FUNCTION AS AN EMD

- 3.1 Emergency Medical Dispatchers are authorized to function as EMDs in San Mateo County when the following initial authorization criteria have been met:
 - 3.1.1 Have a valid and current CPR card according to the standards of the American Red Cross or American Heart Association for adult, child, and infant CPR.
 - 3.1.2 Successfully complete an EMD training program that is recognized by the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch
 - 3.1.3 Complete a San Mateo County EMD application.
 - 3.1.4 Complete a ride along with a San Mateo County emergency ambulance.
 - 3.1.5 Show evidence of employment with a service providing dispatch of a designated emergency ambulance service in San Mateo County
 - 3.1.6 Upon completion of #1-5, the candidate will be authorized in San

Issue Date: August 1, 1998 Effective Date: August 1, 1998 Review Date: August 2000 Mateo County to function as an EMD for a period of two years from the last day of the month that the candidate first completed the course.

REAUTHORIZATION 4.

- Recertification candidates shall meet the following requirements and provide documentation to the San Mateo County EMS Agency.
 - 4.1.1 Emergency Medical Dispatchers shall be authorized every two years by:
 - 4.1.1.1 Completing a San Mateo County EMD reauthorization application
 - Providing proof of 24 hours of EMD continuing 4.1.1.2 education, approved by the EMS Agency, within the previous authorization period. This will include a ride along with an emergency ambulance.
 - 4.1.1.3 Passing the EMD National Academy Examination Having a valid and current CPR card according to the 4.1.1.4
 - standards of the American Red Cross or American Heart Association for adult, child, and infant CPR

5. **EXPIRED AUTHORIZATION**

5.1 Any EMD Authorization which has been expired for more than six (6) months will be considered as an initial authorization applicant.

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