



## DESTINATION OF PATIENTS UNDER A 5150 HOLD

APPROVED:   
EMS Medical Director

  
EMS Administrator

1. Unless a mental health professional, identified by Health Department Identification, requests another 5150 receiving facility, patients on a 5150 hold will be transported to the closest designated 5150 receiving hospital. In most circumstances, transport will be provided by the BLS ambulance service under contract with the County.
  - 1.1 All patients placed on a 5150 hold within the City of San Mateo will be taken to San Mateo Medical Center (unless they meet Code 3 transport).
2. Hospitals that are designated as San Mateo County 5150 receiving hospitals are:
  - 2.1 Peninsula Hospital
  - 2.2 San Mateo Medical Center
3. If there is any suspicion that a patient who has been placed on a 5150 hold has a potentially life threatening emergency medical condition, a 9-1-1 EMT-P staffed emergency ambulance will be immediately requested.
4. Patients suspected to have a potentially life threatening emergency shall be transported to the closest hospital including those not designated as a 5150 receiving hospital.
  - 4.1 The following patient conditions are considered to define those patients requiring transport to the closest facility (either Priority 1 or 3). The closest hospital is defined as the facility that has the shortest transport time from the location of the response. It will not always be the facility that is geographically closest to the location of the response.
    - 4.1.1 Airway unmanageable with BLS interventions
    - 4.1.2 Ventilatory assistance required
    - 4.1.3 Circulatory status compromised upon assessment of the patient by paramedics
    - 4.1.4 Rapidly decreasing level of consciousness or an acute onset GCS

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- of < 9 unresponsive to BLS and ALS interventions
  - 4.1.5 Uncontrolled hemorrhage
  - 4.1.6 Suspected significant overdose
  - 4.1.7 Patients that meet Major Trauma Criteria and all hanging or attempted hanging victims
  - 4.1.8 Any patient for whom Poison Control or the receiving hospital physician recommends rapid transportation to the closest hospital
  - 4.2 If the location of the call makes the selection of the closest hospital questionable and one of the facilities is a 5150 receiving facility, the patient shall be transported to the 5150 receiving hospital.
5. Patients placed on 5150 holds may be transported directly to Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) at San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC), unless they have a condition requiring treatment or stabilization in the Emergency Department.
- 5.1 Examples of patients who need to be transported to the emergency department follow; but this is not an exhaustive list.
    - 5.1.1 Any condition identified in Section 4 above
    - 5.1.2 Suspected overdose of medication or ingestion of substances
    - 5.1.3 Any known acute medical condition, pain or injury including self inflicted (e.g., stab wound)
    - 5.1.4 Hematoma to the head, face, neck or trunk
    - 5.1.5 Unable to walk unassisted (unless this is a chronic condition)
    - 5.1.6 Slurred speech
    - 5.1.7 Glasgow Coma Scale less than 12 (unless this is a chronic condition)
    - 5.1.8 Altered level of consciousness, a positive loss of consciousness, disorientation, incontinence
    - 5.1.9 Exacerbation of chronic medical condition
    - 5.1.10 Field placement of saline lock or intravenous line
    - 5.1.11 Symptoms of delirium
    - 5.1.12 Any evidence of withdrawal syndrome or impending delirium tremens
  - 5.2 For patients being transported to San Mateo Medical Center
    - 5.2.1 If the ambulance crew believes that the patient can be taken to PES, a crew member will call PES by telephone (573-2662) and give a patient report to the PES registered nurse. At the completion of this telephone call, the ambulance crew member will ask the registered nurse whether he/she concurs with the destination decision.
    - 5.2.2 If the ambulance crew believes that the patient should be taken to the medical emergency department, will call SMMC by telephone (573-2671) and give a patient report to a registered nurse. At the

completion of this telephone call, the ambulance crew member will ask the registered nurse whether he/she concurs with the destination decision.

- 5.2.3 Crews transporting patients directly to PES must remain with the patient until the Triage Nurse at PES has accepted responsibility for the patient. If PES cannot accept the patient, the crew shall transport the patient to SMMC Emergency Department.
- 5.2.4 Patients who meet criteria for direct transport to PES may be delivered to PES even if SMMC's Emergency Department is on ambulance diversion.