

SAN MATEO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

DATE: July 24, 1996

MENTAL HEALTH POLICY NO.: MH 96-09

SUBJECT: Ambulance Transportation

AUTHORITY: Divisional; EMS Policy “Destination of Patients Under a 5150 Hold” (Facilities – 5), Reviewed April 2004, attached

SUPERSEDES: Mental Health Policy 91-07, 5150 Procedure/Regional Override

AMENDED: September 8, 2004
Reviewed April 2004

ATTACHMENT:

EMS Policy “Destination of Patients Under a 5150 Hold” (Facilities – 5)

PURPOSE

To clarify existing mental health policy regarding transportation between facilities, and to include new conditions presented by Mental Health Managed Care.

POLICY

Client must be cleared medically before transport from one hospital to another.

The county ambulance contract (currently with AMR) determines the ambulance service of first choice when making transport requests. PES shall always specify or arrange for transportation using AMR Ambulance Services; other ambulance companies will not be reimbursed without specific preauthorization by PES or the Mental Health Deputy Director for Operations.

When it is clinically appropriate to transport out-of-county clients, whether from another county’s own hospital or from a private hospital, to PES for psychiatric evaluation, AMR is the transport of choice.

When a client may best be served by being transported to a private hospital that is a Mental Health Plan contract hospital, AMR Ambulance Services is the transport of choice.

Within San Mateo County, the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) has the financial responsibility for ambulance transport for Medi-Cal clients when a 9-1-1 (paramedic-staffed) ambulance is used to transport the client,

Within San Mateo County, financial responsibility for ambulance transport of Medi-Cal and indigent clients, where the purpose is for mental health and not medical treatment, is the responsibility of the Mental Health Services Division and will be assumed under our contract with AMR Ambulance Services.

Hospitals that are designated as San Mateo County 5150 receiving hospitals are Peninsula Hospital and San Mateo Medical Center. Clients on a 5150 hold are generally transported to the nearest receiving hospital. AMR will, however, comply with a request made by a Mental Health clinician with County Health Department identification, to transport a client on a 5150 hold to a receiving hospital that is not the nearest receiving hospital. It shall always be the case that this request is made in the best clinical interests of the client. (Exception: All clients placed on a 5150 hold within the City of San Mateo will be taken to San Mateo Medical Center.)

Approved: _____
Gale Bataille, Director
Mental Health Services Division