



TRAUMA CENTER BYPASS

ALWAYS USE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220 & 1797.221

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to mitigate Trauma Center Bypass occurrences by defining the criteria by which a Trauma Center may qualify for bypass and define the Trauma Centers responsibilities during an approved bypass occurrence.

BYPASS ELIGIBILITY

A Trauma Center may be considered eligible for bypass when any one of the following conditions exists.

- The physical plant is inoperable due to internal disaster i.e. fire, flood, structural damage, contamination, etc. such that the physical plant is closed to emergency and walk-in traffic.
- The Trauma Center is inundated when any one of the following conditions are met:
 1. The in-house trauma surgeon and back-up trauma surgeon(s) are encumbered in emergency resuscitation or operative procedures.
 2. The anesthesia on-call and back-up anesthesia involved in emergency resuscitation or operative cases.
 3. All O.R. crews involved in emergency resuscitation or operative cases.
 4. Facility does not have the capability or capacity to provide certain specialized treatment interventions.

Unusual circumstances other than the above may be approved for bypass on a case-by-case basis. This approval must be obtained from the on-call EMS duty officer (EMS Duty Officer – Sonoma 565-5992, Napa – 253-0911)

- If it is after normal office hours, they may be contacted via the EMS dispatch center (707-568-5992). Napa County hospitals shall contact Napa Central Dispatch (707- 253-0911) who will notify the EMS Duty Officer or Health Officer.

BYPASS INELIGIBILITY

Except as noted in the Interfacility section below, the following conditions do not constitute acceptable grounds for Trauma Center bypass:

- There is a lack of clinical specialty back up, inpatient bed space or inpatient nursing staff.
- Trauma Bypass shall not be contingent upon ED saturation or non-functioning CT scanner, except for isolated traumatic head injuries.

BYPASS PROCEDURE

The on-call hospital administrator or designee must be notified and must approve the bypass status change prior to actual bypass of patients.

The emergency department supervisor or designee shall make the bypass status change in EMSsystems. In the event of an EMSsystems outage, please contact the EMS Duty Officer. (EMS Duty Officer – Sonoma 565-5992, Napa – 253-0911)



EMSYSTEMS DEFINITIONS:

Closed: Not operational – unable to receive patients

Open: Operational

Trauma Bypass:

Please note: You must enter a Comment when choosing “Trauma Bypass” status

Please note: You must select one or more from this list when choosing “Trauma Bypass” status:

- **Trauma Center Bypass – Other** – Unusual circumstances approved by the On-Call EMS Duty Officer. Not to be used for “Trauma Center Inundation”. Sonoma contact EMS Duty Officer at 565-5992 Napa contact EMS Duty Officer at 253-0911.
- **Trauma Center Inundated** – In house Trauma staff and backups (OR, Surgeon, Anesthesia) are involved in emergency resuscitation or operative cases. Hospital Administrators name approving the bypass must be entered in the comment box.

Comment: Include the name of the Hospital Administrator approving the bypass

The bypass event shall last no longer than 2 hours, at which time the Trauma Center status will be automatically updated to “open”.

Any ambulance transport initiated to the compromised Trauma Center prior to the status being changed shall continue to that facility and will not be redirected.

AMBULANCE DIRECTION

Ambulance providers shall call their assigned base hospital for direction during any Trauma Center bypass event and consider the following:

- Transportation to the next closest Trauma Center by either ground or air.
- Ground ambulance providers should consider utilization of an EMS aircraft and/or transportation to an off-scene landing zone.

Patients may be transported to the nearest Emergency Department if timely access to an alternative Trauma Center is not possible.

OFF BYPASS

To re-establish normal ambulance traffic and acceptance of all trauma patients, the Trauma Center supervisor or designee shall update their status in EMSsystems. In the event of an EMSsystems outage, please contact the EMS Duty Officer. (EMS Duty Officer – Sonoma 565-5992, Napa – 253-0911)



EMS AGENCY NOTIFICATION

Trauma Centers will monitor and review all trauma bypass incidents and will submit reports to the EMS Agency when requested. The EMS Agency may at any time send EMS Agency staff to the facility on bypass to verify the reasons given for bypass.

BYPASS ADDENDUM

Point of Entry Plan

In circumstances of appropriate Trauma Center bypass, the EMS Agency, the base hospital, the requesting Trauma Center, and pre-hospital personnel shall not be considered in violation of the Coastal Valleys Region Point of Entry Plan.

Bypass Prognosis

Base hospitals and/or the EMS Agency may check with the Trauma Center at any time to determine the prognosis for continuance of bypass. The EMS Agency may at any time send EMS Agency staff to the facility on bypass to verify the reasons given for bypass.

Base Hospital Resource Availability

Whenever a Trauma Center in the EMS system is on bypass, base hospitals shall keep an update of surrounding Trauma Center availability for their service area and applicable adjacent areas.

INTERFACILITY TRAUMA TRANSFER – SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS for Level II Trauma Centers

The trauma center shall not redirect interfacility trauma patients from the Coast Valleys EMS Region, including Lake County when:

- Patients are candidates for immediate surgical/operative intervention and when such services are available, and the trauma center is not on "Bypass" regardless of bed availability.

The trauma center may redirect interfacility trauma patient transfers when not on "Bypass" in the following circumstances:

- Patients requiring surgical specialty care services when such services are not available, e.g., cardiothoracic.

In the event a sending facility is redirected by the Trauma Center, the sending facility shall contact the nearest Level I Trauma Center for consultation and direction.

EMS AGENCY RIGHT TO DENY BYPASS

The EMS Agency reserves the right to deny bypass approval based on overriding community need, impending EMS system need or determination that bypass criteria are unmet. If multiple Trauma Centers meet bypass criteria at the same time, Trauma Centers will be expected to treat patients to the best of their ability and there will be no EMS Agency approved bypass for any facility.