



COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: Trauma Care System – General Provisions		Policy Number 1400	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: December 1, 2024	
APPROVED: Medical Director:	 Daniel Shepherd, M.D.	Date: December 1, 2024	
Origination Date:	July 1, 2010		
Date Revised:	July 8, 2020	Effective Date: December 1, 2024	
Date Last Reviewed:	June 6, 2024		
Review Date:	June 30, 2027		

- I. **PURPOSE:** To provide standards and guidelines for the Ventura County Trauma Care System. To provide all injured patients the accessibility to an organized, multi-disciplinary and inclusive system of trauma care. To ensure that all injured patients are taken to the time-closest and most appropriate medical facility.
- II. **AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, §1797.160, §1797.161, and §1798, and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, §100136.03.
- III. **POLICY:**
 - A. **Multi-disciplinary Nature of Systematized Trauma Care**
The Ventura County EMS Agency (VCEMS) recognizes the multi-disciplinary nature of a systemized approach to trauma care. VCEMS has adopted policies, guidelines and triage criteria that provide for the coordination of all resources and ensure the accessibility to the time-closest and most appropriate medical facility for all injured patients.
 - B. **Public Information and Education**
 1. VCEMS is committed to the establishment of trauma system support and the promotion of injury prevention and safety education.
 2. VCEMS facilitates speakers to address public groups, and serves as a resource for trauma information/education.
 3. VCEMS assists community and professional groups in the development and dissemination of education to the public on such topics as injury prevention, safety education programs and access to the Trauma Care System.

4. Each designated facility must participate in the development of public awareness and education campaigns for their service area.
- C. Marketing and Advertising
1. In accordance with the Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, no healthcare provider shall use the term "trauma facility," "trauma hospital," "trauma center," "trauma care provider," "trauma care vehicle," or similar terminology in its signs or advertisements or in printed materials and information it furnishes to the general public unless its use has been authorized by VCEMS.
 2. All marketing and promotional plans, with respect to trauma center designation shall be submitted to VCEMS for review and approval, prior to implementation. Such plans will be reviewed by VCEMS, with approval or denial issued within 10 days, based on the following guidelines:
 - a. Shall provide accurate information
 - b. Shall not include false claims
 - c. Shall not be critical of other providers
 - d. Shall not include financial inducements to any providers or third parties
- D. Service Areas for Hospitals
- Service areas for local trauma hospitals are determined by the VCEMS policy of transporting patients to the time-closest and appropriate facility.
- E. EMS Dispatching
- EMS dispatching for Ventura County is provided for and coordinated through the Ventura County Fire/EMS Communications Center. The closest ALS transporting unit to an incident is dispatched, as well as BLS, and in some cases ALS, first responders.
- F. Training of EMS Personnel
1. Designated facilities will provide training to hospital staff on trauma system policies and procedures.
 2. Base Hospitals conduct periodic classes to orient prehospital providers to the local EMS system. Representatives from a designated trauma center may present the orientation to the Ventura County trauma system.
- G. Coordination and Mutual Aid between neighboring jurisdictions

1. VCEMS will establish and maintain reciprocity agreements with neighboring EMS jurisdictions that provide for the coordination of mutual aid within those jurisdictions.
2. VCEMS works cooperatively and executes agreements, as necessary, in order to ensure that patients are transported to the time-closest and appropriate facility.
3. VCEMS maintains contact with neighboring EMS agencies in order to monitor the status of trauma care systems in surrounding jurisdictions.

H. Interfacility Transfers

1. As an inclusive trauma system, all hospitals have a role in providing trauma care to injured patients.
2. Designated trauma centers are required to establish and maintain a transfer agreement with other trauma center(s) of higher designation for the transfer of patients that require a higher level of care.
3. Transferring facilities, in conjunction with the higher-level facility, shall be responsible for obtaining the appropriate level of transportation when transferring trauma patients.

I. Pediatric Trauma Care.

Integration of pediatric hospital (s), when applicable, into the overall trauma care system to ensure that all trauma patients receive appropriate trauma care in the most expeditious manner possible

1. Designated trauma centers are required to maintain a transfer agreement with a pediatric trauma center.
2. As with all specialties, pediatric consultation should be promptly available
3. The transferring facility, in conjunction with the higher-level facility, shall be responsible for obtaining the appropriate level of care during transport.

J. Coordinating and Integration of Trauma Care with Non-Medical Emergency Services

1. VCEMS ensures that all non-medical emergency service providers are apprised of trauma system activities, as it relates to their agency/organization.
2. Non-medical emergency service providers are included in the VCEMS committee memberships, as appropriate.

3. VCEMS disseminates information to non-medical emergency service agencies through written communication, as necessary.

K. Trauma Center Fees

VCEMS has developed a fee structure that covers the direct cost of the designation process and to effectively monitor and evaluate the trauma care system. Fees are based on the direct VCEMS cost of administering the trauma care system.

L. Medical Control and Accountability

1. Each designated trauma center shall:
 - a. Provide base hospital medical control for field prehospital care providers.
 - b. Provide base hospital service in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 22, as outlined in the VCEMS Base Hospital Agreements.
 - c. Participate in the VCEMS data collection system as defined by VCEMS, CEMSIS-Trauma and the National Trauma Database.
 - d. Participate in the VCEMS continuous quality improvement program.