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March 28, 2012

COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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Base Hospital Coordinators

Base Hospital Physician Directors

Fire EMS Coordinators

Trauma Service Coordinators Trauma Service Directors **Ambulance Providers**

Paramedic Training Program

Paramedic Receiving Center ED Managers Paramedic Receiving Center Physician Directors

Samuel J. Stratton, MD, MPH FROM:

Orange County EMS Medical Director

ANNUAL EMS SYSTEM UPDATE SUBJECT:

On April 2 at 8:00 am, updates of the Orange County EMS System will go into effect. The 2012 update of the system includes:

- Expansion of ALS non-base-contacted calls resulting in more patients taken directly to Paramedic Receiving Centers without prior base hospital notification of the run.
- Avoidance by ambulance and paramedic units of transports to hospital Emergency Departments that are on formal diversion status.
- Reinforcement of the authority of an Orange County Base Hospital, when online with EMS field units, to make final destination decisions for transport of EMSpatients from the field.

ALS non-base-contacted calls are being expanded to a comprehensive set of standing orders that paramedics will use without making base hospital contact. When on standing orders, paramedic teams will directly notify Paramedic Receiving Centers of runs that are being transported. It is expected that the number of paramedic runs transported to receiving centers without base hospital notification will increase.



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Field 911 units and ambulance companies are being instructed to avoid transports to an Emergency Department that is on diversion status. Two exceptions are Trauma Centers which will continue to receive patients when open and continued interfacility transport of Stroke-Neurology patients from spoke hospitals to Stroke-Neurology Receiving Centers. Transport of direct-admit patients to hospital wards will not be affected by Emergency Department diversion. When a Base Hospital is on-line with an EMS field unit, that Base Hospital has final authority to determine the destination for the patient. This authority supersedes diversion status.

To view the 2012 Update ALS Standing Orders and Guideline changes please visit the Orange County EMS web page at http://www.ochealthinfo.com/ems and click "Treatment Guidelines" in the left column.

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