



San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency, Inc.

712 Fiero Lane #29, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Phone 805-546-8728 Fax 805-546-8736
www.sloemsa.org

PLEASE POST

Policy Updates

April 20, 2010

To All SLO County EMS Providers and Hospital Emergency Departments:

The following policies have been approved by the San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency and will become effective **May 15, 2010**.

Highlights of the policy changes or additions have been paraphrased below. Please refer to the full text of each policy through the EMSA website: www.sloemsa.org.

It is the responsibility of EMS Providers to ensure that all appropriate personnel receive this information. If you have questions please contact the EMS Agency at 805-546-8728. Thank you.

POLICY #119 EMS AIRCRAFT (HELICOPTER) OPERATIONS

This policy establishes the procedure for the prehospital utilization, destination and evaluation of EMS Aircraft (Helicopters) operating in San Luis Obispo County. This policy **EXCLUDES** EMS Aircraft (Helicopter) operations limited to search and rescue, and interfacility transfers. The parameters for expedited launch and the criteria for first responder requests are outlined. Supplemental information on expedited launch and approved landing sites is included.

Policy #122 PATIENT REFUSAL OF TREATMENT AND/OR TRANSPORT

Adds "Specialty Care Centers" as a destination when noted by policy guidelines.

Policy #125 COMMUNICATION FAILURE

A communication failure is deemed to have occurred when either party in a conversation using radio, telephone, cell phone, or other two-way communication device is unable to hear the other party clearly enough to understand what is being said; or when a Paramedic contacts a Base Hospital or Specialty Care Center and there is no MICN or emergency physician available to take a patient condition report and/or give directions or orders. When a communication failure occurs a Communication Failure Report should be filed with the Provider's EMS QI Coordinator within 24 hours, detailing information relating to the communications portion of the call, including any contact with a Base Hospital or Specialty Care Center other than the intended receiving facility.

POLICY #127 MANAGEMENT OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

This policy covers the security and accountability for all controlled substances issued to and maintained upon authorized Advanced Life Support (ALS) units, both transporting and non-transporting. It defines the standards by which controlled substances are obtained, stored, used, and tracked; and outlines the responsibilities of the ALS Provider and Paramedics with regard to controlled substances.

Policy #500 Series

Updated Basic Life Support (BLS) treatment guidelines in algorithm format by chief complaint.

###