

Region IX EMS Plan

Peak Census Ambulance Transport Policy

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Reviewed:

I. Policy

The purpose of the Peak Census - Ambulance Transport Policy is to provide reasonable transport options for EMS agencies affected by high ED census in *multiple hospitals* within a defined geographical area. The intent of a coordinated transport distribution plan is to lessen the need for a specific hospital to need to implement Ambulance Diversion/Bypass actions.

II. Definition

“Peak Census” occurs when a specific hospital is experiencing near capacity census with limited access to inpatient beds, critical care equipment, support resources and staffing which impact the management of patient care. The hospital surge capacity plan may have implemented patient admission to overflow space, which in turn provides a strain on available support resources and staffing.

III. Procedure

- A. Stricken hospital implements their internal PEAK Census response plan and updates the IDPH HHAN to reflect *Peak Census Status*.
- B. Assessment is made through review of the IDPH HHAN and direct contact between the stricken hospital and the surrounding hospitals regarding “Internal Peak Census” status within the general geographic area- ED-to-ED communication evaluates concern for pending “Bypass” situations.
- C. EDs of stricken hospitals shall notify the EMS Coordinator of Internal Peak Census response plan implementation activation. (Associate Hospital EMS Coordinator notifies the Resource Hospital EMS System Coordinator to implement the plan).
- D. EMS Agencies are notified of the System/Regional Peak Census Distribution Plan for transport of EMS patients by the EMS System Coordinator from the Resource Hospital.
- E. All hospitals will continue to accept EMS patients who are assessed to have BLS managed assessment findings.
- F. Each EMS System will develop a distribution plan, which addresses pre-established transport destinations for the EMS agencies impacted by Peak Census at System Hospitals.
- G. The EMS System Peak Census Distribution plan will address at least the following:
 1. All unstable patients will be accepted by the closest ED facility regardless of Peak Census or Bypass status.
 2. OB patients who present in active labor or with complications will be transported to the closest facility with OB abilities regardless of Peak Census or Bypass status.
 3. Consideration for transport of pediatric patients, when stricken facilities include a Pediatric ED center.
 4. Transport requests for delivery to a facility other than the predetermined destination outlined in the plan, require medical control contact prior to leaving the scene enroute to the requested destination.
 5. A procedure for notification of area EDs and EMS agencies in both the implementation and the discontinuation of the Peak Census Ambulance Distribution Plan