

April 26, 2016

TO: All Kern County Accredited EMS Personnel
FROM: Jana Richardson, Senior EMS Coordinator
Kristopher Lyon, M.D., Medical Director
SUBJECT: **Hospital Destination Changes**



On April 26, 2016, the following changes to *Paramedic Protocols* and *Ambulance Destination Decision Policies and Procedures* shall become effective:

- Kern Medical has been designated as a Primary Stroke Center. Kern Medical will be a specialty center for consideration of ambulance transport of patients meeting Stroke Activation Criteria.
- Bakersfield Memorial Hospital and Kern Medical are designated as Level II Pediatric Receiving Centers. These facilities will be a specialty center for consideration of ambulance transport of pediatric patients that either meet or do not meet Pediatric Emergent Medical Criteria.
- San Joaquin Community Hospital is designated as a Level III Pediatric Receiving Center. San Joaquin will be a specialty center for consideration of ambulance transport of pediatric patients that DO NOT meet Pediatric Emergent Medical Criteria.

Pediatric destinations shall be effective as outlined in the *Paramedic Protocols*, *Pediatric Receiving Center Designation Policies and Procedures* and *Ambulance Destination Decision Policies and Procedures* for the metro Bakersfield and West Kern County areas. Pediatric patients should be transported to pediatric receiving centers, unless as otherwise noted in policy (patient choice). Transport of pediatric patients to hospitals other than designated pediatric receiving centers shall be thoroughly documented.

Rural areas with local hospitals will have until December 31, 2016, to apply for pediatric receiving center status. EMS providers in the areas of Delano, Kern Valley, Tehachapi, and the East Kern Desert shall make base contact with a pediatric receiving center for destination decision advice. After the December 31, 2016 deadline, pediatric patients should be transported in accordance with policy.