TITLE: **EMS AIRCRAFT UTILIZATION** EMS Policy No. **4448**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to specify the patient type and time criteria for utilization of an EMS Aircraft during an EMS system response.

AUTHORITY:

Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Chapter 8.

DEFINITIONS: See SJCEMSA Policy Definitions.

~~A. "SJCEMSA authorized dispatch center" means the authorized point of contact for all EMS Aircraft requests in San Joaquin County.~~

POLICY:

I. EMS Aircraft shall~~ould~~ only be used when ground transport of a critically injured patient exceeds 30 minutes or during multi casualty incidents (MCI) ~~it is in the best interest of the patient. In general, consideration should be given to requesting an EMS Aircraft whenever the patient's condition appears life or permanent disability threatening after field assessment, prolonged transports exceeding thirty (30) minutes,~~ or in accordance with simultaneous dispatch procedures outlined in Section III of this policy. It is expected that the patient's condition, available ground resources, incident location and/or landing zone proximity to incident location will be evaluated and balanced when making the determination of transport modality.

II. All EMS aircraft requests will be routed through the SJCEMSA designated emergency ambulance ~~authorized~~ dispatch center. ~~-~~Requests from any other source~~, other than the SJCEMSA authorized dispatch center will not be honored by EMS aircraft providers. The requesting agency shall be redirected to the SJCEMSA authorized dispatch center by the EMS Aircraft dispatch center.~~

~~II.~~III. The closest authorized EMS aircraft shall be requested by the designated emergency ambulance dispatch center.~~In the event more than one aircraft is available for scene calls the aircraft that is geographically closer to the incident shall be utilized.~~

Approved: ~~Signature on file~~ _____ _____ ~~Signature on file~~

Medical Director EMS Administrator

DRAFT

~~III.~~IV. SJCEMSA designated emergency ambulance ~~authorized~~ dispatch centers shall simultaneously dispatch air ambulance resources to MPDS determinants 3D, 4D, 7C/D/E, 14D, 15D/E, 17D, 22D, 27D, 29D, 30D and where ground transport time to a County-approved trauma center is equal to or greater than 30 minutes. Refer to EMS Policy No. 4448A, EMS Aircraft Simultaneous Dispatch Map.

~~IV.~~V. EMS Responders may request an air ambulance while enroute to the call in accordance with Section II of this policy if the responding crew suspects that an air ambulance will be needed based on previous knowledge of the area.

~~V.~~VI. Patient Condition(s) Not Appropriate for EMS Aircraft Transport:

A. Cardiac arrest (in hypothermic arrest consider air transport).
B. Stable patient(s) may consider air transport if ground transport is greater than thirty (30) minutes from nearest receiving facility.
C. Patient(s) contaminated by hazardous materials that cannot be completely decontaminated prior to transport.
D. Patient(s) who are agitated or combative and a potential threat to the crew.
E. Patient(s) located within a city limits, the only exception to this shall be Mass Casualty Incidents.

~~VI.~~VII. Patient Condition(s) Appropriate for EMS Aircraft Transport:

A. Multi-casualty incidents ~~(red and or yellow patients)~~.
B. Critical Trauma Patient(s).
C. Spinal injury with neurological deficit.
D. Unstable burn patient.
E. Unstable patient from environmental injuries.
F. Vascular compromise in a limb or amputation.
G. Prolonged seizure refractory to medication or seizures involving pregnancy.
H. Cardiovascular instability.
I. Respiratory arrest or sever respiratory comprise.
J. Complications of childbirth (e.g., abnormal presentations, massive blood loss, etc.)
K. Any other conditions in consultation with the Base Hospital.

~~VII.~~VIII. All EMS Aircraft destinations shall be in accordance with SJCEMSA EMS Policy No. 5201, Medical Patient Destination, and 5215, Trauma Patient Destination, and Disaster Control Facility (DCF) direction.

DRAFT

Approved: ~~Signature on file~~

Medical Director

~~Signature on file~~

EMS Administrator