



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Jared Bagwell, Director

Dr. Katherine Shafer MD, EMS Medical Director

Memorandum

DATE: November 10, 2025

TO: All Prehospital Personnel and Providers

FROM: Katherine Shafer, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Jared Bagwell, EMS Director

Initial
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SUBJ.: **Ventricular Assist Devices in San Joaquin County**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform all system participants of revisions to SJCEMSA Policy No. 5201, Medical Patient Destination, which now includes a specific exception for ventricular assist devices.

Effective November 10, 2025 Policy 5201, Medical Patient Destination, will have the following additions to section II, E:

E. Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) patients:

1. *Unstable patients shall be transported to the nearest STEMI Center.*
2. *Stable patients with complaints related to their VAD shall be transported to their VAD Implant Center, contact with the patient's VAD Coordinator is suggested but shall not delay transport.*
3. *The following receiving hospitals located in Sacramento County, CA, are recognized as VAD Implant Centers by SJCEMSA for purposes of transport from the scene:*

U.C. Davis Medical Center.
Mercy General Hospital Sacramento.
Sutter Medical Center Sacramento.
4. *VAD patients with non-emergent complaints unrelated to VADs shall be transported to the patient's preferred hospital and pursuant to Section III of this policy.*

For any questions, please contact Matthew Esposito at mesposito@sjgov.org or (209)468-6818