

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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November 16, 2015

Tammi McConnell, EMS Administrator
Orange County Emergency Medical Services
405 W. Fifth Street, Suite 301A
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Ms. McConnell:

This letter is in response to the 2015 Orange County EMS Plan Update submission to the EMS Authority on October 5, 2015.

I. Introduction and Summary:

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Orange County's 2015 EMS Plan Update and is approving the plan as submitted.

II. History and Background:

The EMS Authority is responsible for the review of EMS Plans and for making a determination on the approval or disapproval of the plan, based on compliance with statute and the standards and guidelines established by the EMS Authority consistent with H&S Code § 1797.105(b).

The California Health and Safety (H&S) Code § 1797.254 states:

*"Local EMS agencies shall **annually** (emphasis added) submit an emergency medical services plan for the EMS area to the authority, according to EMS Systems, Standards, and Guidelines established by the authority".*

Historically, we have received EMS Plan documentation from Orange County for the following years: 1995, 1999, 2004, 2006, 2014 and, most current, its 2015 plan submission. Orange County received its last Five-Year Plan approval in 2014 and its last annual Plan Update approval in 2007 for its 2006 plan submission.

III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Orange County's 2015 EMS Plan Update. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations and H&S Code § 1797.254 and the EMS system components identified in H&S Code § 1797.103 are indicated below:

A. System Organization and Management

1. System Assessment Forms

- **Standard 1.24 (ALS Systems):**

'Current Status' indicates standard is not met. In next submission please update progress on long-range plan indicated in objectives.

- **Standards 1.27 (Pediatric System Plan):**

'Current Status' indicates standard is not met. In next submission please update progress on long-range plan indicated in objectives.

B. Staffing/Training

C. Communications

D. Response/Transportation

1. Ambulance Zones

- Please see the attachment on the EMS Authority's determination of the exclusivity of Orange County's ambulance zones.

E. Facilities/Critical Care

F. Data Collection/System Evaluation

G. Public Information and Education

H. Disaster Medical Response

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IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Orange County may implement areas of the 2015 EMS Plan Update that have been approved. Pursuant to H&S Code § 1797.105(b):

“After the applicable guidelines or regulations are established by the Authority, a local EMS agency may implement a local plan...unless the Authority determines that the plan does not effectively meet the needs of the persons served and is not consistent with the coordinating activities in the geographical area served, or that the plan is not concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, or both the guidelines and regulations established by the Authority.”

V. Next Steps:

Orange County's annual EMS Plan submission will be due on November 16, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the plan review please contact Jeff Schultz, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,



Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director

Attachment

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*Excellence
Integrity
Service*

COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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October 2, 2015

Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority
10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6073

Subject: 2014 Orange County EMS Plan – 2015 Annual Update

Dear Dr. Backer:

Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) has completed an annual update to the 2014 local EMS Plan. The 2015 annual update provides the required information on the status of our system and progress toward meeting objective goals.

OCEMS appreciates the guidance and clarification provided by Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) staff during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly for any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tammi McConnell RN, MSN
EMS Administrator

Sam J. Stratton MD, MPH
EMS Medical Director

Enclosure

cc: Orange County Health Care Agency Director
Orange County Health Care Agency Medical Services, Acting Deputy Director
Orange County Health Care Agency Medical Services, Chief of Operations
Emergency Medical Services Authority, Chief Deputy Director
Emergency Medical Service Authority, Systems Division Chief

TCM: em#2459

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County of Orange
Health Care Agency
Health Disaster Management
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
405 W. Fifth Street, Suite 301A
Santa Ana, CA 92701



2014 Emergency Medical Services Plan 2015 Annual Update

Reviewed and updated August 2015

*Contains Provider Data for CY 2015
and Financial Data for FY 2014-2015*

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**2014 ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE
September 2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California Health and Safety Code Section 1797.254, requires the Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency to submit an Emergency Medical Services Plan to the State EMS Authority (EMSA) and provide annual updates. The EMS Plan is a framework for the planning, implementation and evaluation of EMS in Orange County and addresses the local status of eight minimum standards, subsets and recommended goals of the EMS Authority, as well as anticipated future needs.

This annual update to the 2014 Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) plan approved by the California EMSA in July 2014 provides the required information on the status of our system and progress toward meeting objective goals. **Notable 2014/15 system enhancements and activities** include but are not limited to:

9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance RFP#OC2014.01

The Orange County RFP for 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation concluded with the Board of Supervisor's action on April 28, 2015 with the awarding of contracts within five county administered ambulance regions. Two companies provide regional ambulance service for approximately one million residents and visitors per year.

Designation of a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center

On January 15, 2015, Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) began accepting EMS pediatric trauma patients from the EMS System. CHOC was designated by OCEMS as a Level II Pediatric Paramedic Trauma Receiving Center and will undergo an American College of Surgeons trauma verification survey in 2016.

Interfacility Transport – Advanced Life Support (IFT-ALS)

In 2013, OCEMS initiated a limited pilot study of the feasibility, safety and effectiveness of a proposed IFT-ALS program. The study was exclusively designed for transport of patients between medical facilities who require advanced life support monitoring and not critical care transport (CCT Nurse) level care. Upon analysis of the pilot data, considerable review of public comments, programmatic counsel and awareness of EMS standards of practice within the state, OCEMS has fully authorized the service. From January to August, 2015 three authorized IFT-ALS providers transported approximately 5300 patients. Current data analysis demonstrates a benefit to the pre-hospital system as a whole with timely transports at an appropriate service level.

Pilot Studies

OCEMS Policy #399.00: Alternate Destination Pilot Project published June 1, 2015 provides authorization and criteria for the Orange County Alternate Destination Site Pilot Project approved under the California State EMS Authority Community Paramedicine Pilot Project. On July 28, 2015 the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) approved Orange County's Alternate Destination Pilot Project's Protocols and Procedures (Phase I & II).

OCEMS Policy #398.00: Naloxone by PD published June 1, 2015 describes criteria for law enforcement officer administration of naloxone hydrochloride in cases of suspected acute opioid overdose. Implementation pending, over one hundred officers trained in intranasal administration.

On November 19, 2014, Anaheim Fire & Rescue (AF&R) received initial OCEMS authorization for a community care response unit proposal. In July 2015, following many months of preparation, AF&R initiated the program consisting of a Community Care Response Unit (CCRU) that responds to low level, non-urgent medical requests with an ambulance staffed by a Nurse Practitioner and an Anaheim Fire Captain/Paramedic.

**2014 ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE
September 2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (cont'd)

Orange County Hospital Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

On June 5, 2014 a Mutual Aid MOU was executed to aid hospitals in their emergency management by addressing the loan of medical personnel, pharmaceuticals, supplies, and equipment or assistance with emergency healthcare facility evacuation. The MOU signifies the commitment of the hospitals that in the event of a disaster, the medical needs of the community will be best met if the hospitals cooperate with each other and coordinate their response efforts. It is intended to augment local and regional mutual aid planning documents and therefore has been incorporated into applicable disaster medical response plans and the OCEMS Department Operations Center (DOC) as a resource document.

Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS)

Orange County Base Hospitals implemented a countywide electronic Base Hospital Report (eBHR) system, the first of its kind in California. The eBHR is designed to be interoperable with existing electronic Prehospital Care Reports (ePCR) used by most 9-1-1 EMS providers and is integrated into the Base Hospital Radio Consoles used by Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICN) during online medical control.

NextGen (NEMSIS 3) planning and implementation is in progress. The main components and layout of the default ePCR template has been created; committees and sub-groups have formed to address transition to the NextGen OC-MEDS platform and pilot testing is scheduled for late Fall / early winter.

OCEMS continues our mission to plan, coordinate and oversee the highest quality prehospital and emergency medical care in response to individual needs and community crisis. Mutual cooperation, patient advocacy, advanced medical technology, electronic documentation and evidence-based data are major strengths. Despite financial challenges affecting all stakeholders, the county of Orange and system participants remain committed to the integrity, effectiveness and adherence to the EMS plan standards. The policies referenced within the plan are available on the OCEMS website at <http://www.healthdisasteroc.org/ems>.



Tammi McConnell, RN, MSN
Orange County EMS Administrator

September 22, 2015

Date