

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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TO: Local Emergency Medical Services Agency Administrators
Local Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors
Emergency Medical Services Providers
Emergency Medical Services System Partners

FROM: Hernando Garzon, MD, Chief Medical Officer *H. Garzon, M.D.*
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SUBJECT: Updates to the Primary and Secondary Impressions Limited Lists for
Improved Documentation of Inter-facility Transports

The existing limited Primary and Secondary Impressions lists have been designed for primary impressions that emergency medical services (EMS) personnel can realistically make during scene calls given training level and available diagnostics. These lists significantly improve documentation standardization and are beneficial to quality improvement work. However, many inter-facility transports (IFTs) are for patients who do not fit easily into one of the primary impressions on the California EMS Information System (CEMSIS) limited lists.

After multiple discussions, review and approval by the Emergency Medical Services Authority Executive Data Advisory Group and the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California, the following changes are being implemented and a new schematron rule will be effective on **January 1, 2026:**

For any IFT which eResponse.05 – Type of Service Requested = 2205005 Hospital-to-Hospital Transfer or 2205015 Hospital to Non-Hospital Facility Transfer, where an existing Primary Impression selection choice is NOT an appropriate Primary Impression:

1. EMS personnel can now select the following Primary Impression: "Z75.1 - Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere." **-AND-**
2. The Secondary Impression List will NOT be restricted, and any ICD-10 diagnostic name/code will be accepted.

Note: Secondary Impressions NOT from the limited pick lists will ONLY be accepted when one of the two IFT code options noted above are selected for eResponse.05.

Thank you for your help to ensure the quality of data, data submission, and analysis. If there are any questions or comments, please contact the Quality and Planning Division by emailing EMSData@emsa.ca.gov.