

Solano County Health & Social Services Department

Mental Health Services
Public Health Services
Substance Abuse Services
Older & Disabled Adult Services



Eligibility Services
Employment Services
Children's Services
Administrative Services

Ann Edwards, Director

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Ted Selby
Emergency Services Bureau Chief

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Colleagues,

Please, find the attached revision of the C3 and C4 cardiac arrest protocols.

Notably, they contain a substantive change regarding patients who have experienced out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) and have had return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC).

Many of these patients (30-50%) have high-grade coronary lesions amenable to intervention but still may have equivocal (or unobtainable) ECGs en route to the hospital.

Per these protocol changes, these patients will now to be transported to the nearest STEMI receiving facility (SRC) regardless of ECG findings.

The rationale underlying this decision is as follows:

1. Immediate coronary angiography followed by successful coronary intervention has been shown to be an independent predictor for survival and improved neurological outcomes for patients with OHCA, *irrespective of the presence or absence of STEMI on the presenting ECG.*
2. The standard of care is quickly evolving, as evidenced by local counties that have recently made similar destination policy changes. A partial list includes, but is not limited to: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Napa, Orange, and Santa Clara.
3. This is unlikely to be a large additional burden on any one SRC as we estimate there is less than 1 patient per week with ROSC after OHCA in Solano County. This policy relates to a change in destination only for those patients who do not manifest STEMI changes on ECG. Hence, the implementation of this policy will only impact a subset of this patient population.

4. Given the county geography and location of current SRCs, we do not anticipate that this change in policy will add substantially to transport times (i.e. beyond a critical threshold of 30 min.).

In summary, these changes to policy are intended to improve care for the citizens of Solano County by lowering the barriers to early PCI in OHCA patients.

We anticipate carefully tracking the impact of this policy and very much appreciate your support and diligence with implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Bair", with a large, stylized initial "A" that loops around the first part of the name.

Aaron E. Bair, MD, MS
Medical Director, Solano County EMS