

**TRAUMA SYSTEM**

**Date: 07/01/2023**

**Repatriation of Stable Trauma Patient**

**Policy #8300**

**I. Purpose:**

- A. To establish guidelines for repatriation of stable trauma patients to their health plan's facility.

**II. Authority:**

- A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 5, Article 2.5.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7.

**III. Policy:**

- A. All stable trauma patients shall be transferred to their health provider's facility when requested, as long as such transfer is medically prudent and in the best interest of the patient. All requests/discussions concerning transfer status of the patient shall be made physician to physician. Transfer agreement will be based on patient condition and appropriateness of receiving facility resources.
- B. Unless otherwise decided by the trauma surgeon or ED physician of record, no trauma patient requiring acute care admission will be transferred to a facility that is not designated as a trauma center by an authorized authority, until the condition is stable enough to be adequately cared for at that facility.
- C. Hospitals which have repatriated trauma patients from designated trauma centers shall:
  - 1. Provide the information required to complete the trauma registry on that patient to the transferring trauma center, and,
  - 2. Participate, when indicated, in system and trauma center quality improvement activities for those patients who have been transferred.
- D. Trauma patients seen at Imperial County trauma centers may require diagnostic evaluation or immediate treatment prior to transfer. Trauma center evaluation does not necessitate preapproval by the patient's insurer.

APPROVED:

SIGNATURE ON FILE – DATE

Katherine Staats, MD FACEP  
EMS Medical Director