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EMS Medical Director

Chief, Emergency Medical Services

I. INTENT:

- A. To advise the Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) Medical Director on the establishment of trauma related policies, procedures, and treatment protocols.
- B. To advise the SCEMS Medical Director on trauma related education, training, quality improvement, and data collection issues.
- C. To establish the standard of quality for trauma care in Sacramento County.

II. AUTHORITY:

- A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Ch. 6, Art. 2.5, §1798.160 & §1798.161 (a)(7).
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Ch. 7, Art. 3, §100255.


III. POLICY:

The SCEMS Medical Director shall appoint a Trauma Review Committee (TRC). The trauma care administered to patients of the Sacramento County Trauma Care System will be reviewed for appropriateness and patient outcome by the TRC. The TRC is an advisory committee to SCEMS on issues related to trauma care. The TRC will function as a sub-committee of the SCEMS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Committee, per Program Document #4002.

IV. SCOPE OF AUDIT REVIEW:

The scope of the review to be conducted by the committee will include, but not be limited to, a review of:

- A. Trauma deaths, as determined by the SCEMS Medical Director.
- B. Out-of-hospital trauma care.
- C. Appropriateness of triage criteria and performance.

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D. Hospital trauma care.

E. Patient outcome.

And to:

F. Provide input to SCEMS in:

1. Development, implementation, and evaluation of SCEMS audit criteria.
2. Defining the medical goals of the SCEMS Trauma Care System.

G. Identifying errors in medical care.

V. MEMBERSHIP:

The membership shall be broad based regionally and shall represent the participants in the Trauma Care System and the regional medical community.

A. SCEMS Medical Director,

B. SCEMS Agency Chief, or designee,

C. The chief of trauma services (or equivalent position) from each designated trauma center,

D. The chief of emergency services (or designee) from each designated trauma center,


E. The trauma nurse coordinators (or equivalent position) from each designated trauma center,

F. A forensic pathologist from the Sacramento County Coroner's office,

G. Other individuals who the SCEMS Medical Director deems necessary, on an ad-hoc or permanent basis, and appointed by the SCEMS Medical Director,

H. Members from non-trauma centers must represent hospitals, which have agreed to provide data on trauma patients, as described by the SCEMS Trauma Care System Plan.

I. Term - 2 years - may renew with approval of chairperson.

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VI. ATTENDANCE:


- A. Members will notify County Emergency Medical Services staff in advance of any scheduled meeting they will be unable to attend.
- B. After two (2) absences in a calendar year, an appointed member may be terminated from the Committee.
- C. Resignation from the committee must be submitted, in writing, to the SCEMS Agency, and is effective upon receipt, unless otherwise specified.
- D. At the discretion of the TRC Chairperson/County EMS, other invitees may participate in the medical audit review of cases where their expertise is essential to make appropriate determinations. These invitees may include:
 1. Physician specialists not on the committee.
 2. Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators.
 3. Out-of-hospital Providers, i.e., Air Ambulance Providers, Emergency Medical Technicians, EMT-Paramedics.
 4. County Appointed Trauma System Evaluation Teams.

VII. VOTING:

Due to the "advisory" nature of the committee, many issues will require input rather than a vote process. Vote process issues will be identified as such by the Chairperson. When voting is required, the majority of the voting members of the committee need to be present.

VIII. MEETINGS:

The committee will meet at least four (4) times per year in conjunction with Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS Agency. The usual date will be the third Thursday of the month. The committee shall be chaired alternately by the SCEMS Agency and the Sierra-Sacramento Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency.

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IX. MINUTES:

Due to the confidential nature of the committee business, minutes shall be distributed at the beginning of the meeting and collected at the close of each meeting by staff. No copies may be made or possessed by members of the committee outside of the meeting.

X. CONFIDENTIALITY:

- A. All proceedings, documents, and discussions of the Trauma Review Committee are confidential and are covered under Sections 1040 and 1157.7 of the Evidence Code of the State of California. The prohibition relating to discovery of testimony provided to the Committee will be applicable to all proceedings and records of this committee, which is one established by a local government agency to monitor, evaluate, and report on the necessity, quality, and level of specialty health services, including, but not limited to, trauma care services. Issues requiring system input may be sent in total to the local emergency medical services agency for input. Guests may be invited to discuss specific cases and issues in order to assist the committee in making final case or issue determinations. Guests may only be present for the portions of meetings they have been requested to review or testify about.
- B. All members will sign a confidentiality agreement not to divulge or discuss information that would have been obtained solely through medical audit committee membership. Prior to the guest(s) participating in the meeting, the Chairperson is responsible for explaining, and obtaining, a signed confidentiality agreement from invited guests.

XI. TRAUMA AUDIT PROCESS:

Audit screens will be established by the committee to guide them in case review. In every case reviewed, the committee will make a finding of the appropriateness of the care rendered and will, where appropriate, make recommendations regarding changes in the system to ensure appropriate care.