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**MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Date: December 14, 2020

TO: 911 Providers
Base Hospital Coordinators
Emergency Receiving Centers
Ambulance Services

SUBJECT: EMS AUTHORIZATION TO TEMPORARILY TRANSPORT PATIENTS 29
YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER TO CHOC

Due to the public health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented numbers of patients are presenting to emergency departments and hospitals for care, threatening to overwhelm the system. Diversion hours and APOTs are higher than at any time in the history of Orange County EMS. As a result of this crisis, OCEMS has temporarily authorized the transportation from the field of patients 29 years of age or younger to Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) for care.

I have spoken with representatives from CHOC and they feel comfortable with this population. Given their current capacity to see patients, I think this is the right thing to do. This will help off-load other overwhelmed hospitals. There are some limitations to implementing this directive so any provider wishing to transport a patient within this age range to CHOC should contact them first before transport.

This is a temporary measure and will be in force for a limited time. Once diversion is restored and APOTs are reduced to more normal numbers, we will terminate this arrangement.

I appreciate CHOC's innovative thinking and willingness to help in expanding Orange County's hospital capacity.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carl Schultz, MD'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'C' and 'S'.

Carl H. Schultz, MD
EMS Medical Director
Orange County Health Care Agency

CHS:chs#3907