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Date: December 18, 2020

TO: 911 Providers
Base Hospital Coordinators
Emergency Receiving Centers
Ambulance Services
Hospital CEOs
Control 1 Supervisors

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF SUSPENSION FOR HOSPITAL DIVERSION STATUS

For the last 72 hours, a temporary suspension of Emergency Receiving Center and Specialty Center diversion status has been in effect. It is scheduled to expire at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) tonight. Unfortunately, the situation has not improved in the interim. The same conditions that prompted the suspension in the first place remain. As a result, the temporary suspension directive will remain in effect until data on 90% APOTs improve enough to permit the re-institution of emergency department diversion.

OCEMS has reviewed the relationship between 90% APOTs and the number of hospitals on diversion and total amount of diversion hours. As a result, OCEMS has determined that the suspension directive will remain in effect until 90% APOTs fall below 50 minutes for 3 consecutive days. Once this benchmark is achieved, OCEMS will reinstate the ability of Emergency Departments to divert ambulances. However, should the 90% APOT for the county exceed 50 minutes for 3 consecutive days, the suspension of diversion will return.

It is difficult to convey in words the stress you all are under and the seriousness of the situation. OCEMS will be examining the data frequently and reinstate ambulance diversion as soon as the situation permits.

Sincerely

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

CHS:chs#3915