



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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July 27, 2015

To: Orange County Prehospital Care Providers
Orange County Emergency Receiving Centers
Orange County Base Hospital Coordinators

From: Samuel J. Stratton, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services
Tammi McConnell, RN, MSN, EMS Administrator, Emergency Medical Services

Subject: OCEMS POLICY #300.10: OC-MEDS Documentation Standards

This memo is to remind EMS providers of the importance of timely completion and submission of prehospital care reports (PCRs) to receiving facilities. Below are the results of recent audits to determine adherence to OCEMS Policy #300.10 OC-MEDS Documentation Standards, *“For continuity of care and for patient safety, the PCR shall be made available to the receiving center or coroner before leaving the receiving facility. Except in rare cases of system downtime or inoperability of tablets, patient care records should be completed promptly and be available for receiving center physicians and staff.”* (Attachment)

A review of 110 PCRs with an Orange County Emergency Receiving Center destination revealed the following:

55% records were posted as “Complete”
43% records were posted as “In Progress”
2% were not found on Hospital Hub

A review of 1,220 field death PCRs from January to June 2015 identified the following destinations:

88% Coroner
8% Not Transported
3% Blank
1% Not Applicable/Not Known/Not Reporting

Prehospital care is a fundamental component of the patient care continuum and the PCR is part of the patient’s legal medical record. It is the standard of care as required by OCEMS policy that EMS providers complete & distribute a PCR to receiving facility. The practice of leaving a completed patient care record has not changed with the transition from paper to electronic formats. Receiving Facilities expect to receive a completed PCR promptly after patient handoff. Hospitals rely on the PCR information and the completed PCR is included in the patient’s medical chart.

For information on how to monitor and improve the timely completion and distribution of PCRs, please contact Vicki Sweet, OCEMS ALS/CQI Coordinator at 714-834-2926.