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Date: December 15, 2020

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

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF HOSPITAL DIVERSION STATUS AND CESSATION OF
TRANSPORT TO CHOC FOR PATIENTS 29 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER

In the last 24 hours, we have seen EMS hospital diversion increase to extreme levels with 20 hospitals being on diversion for a total of 213 hours. This is not sustainable. Therefore, effective at 7:00 PM tonight (1900 hours), OCEMS will suspend the ability for Orange County acute care hospitals to go on diversion. The ReddiNet will not accept diversion status after this time. All types of diversion are suspended, including Stroke, STEMI, and Trauma. The only exception to this directive will be for internal disasters such as fires or explosions. In these unlikely situations, OCEMS will place hospitals on diversion after being notified of the situation.

This order will be in effect for the next 72 hours. The situation will be closely and continuously monitored. If the situation remains at its present state, this suspension of diversion will continue. Once benchmarks for diversion improve, this directive will be cancelled.

In addition, OCEMS is terminating the authorization to transport adults 29 years of age or younger to CHOC. Multiple logistic complications have occurred as a result of this directive and it would be in everyone's best interest to cease this activity, effective immediately.

These are truly extraordinary times. I acknowledge these directives will be challenging to implement, but current circumstances dictate such action is required to support the EMS system. I very much appreciate everyone's dedication and professionalism.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carl Schultz, MD'.

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

CHS:chs#3911