

TO: Base and Receiving Hospitals
ALS and BLS Providers
Fire Departments
Emergency Department Managers and PLNs

FROM: Humberto R. Ochoa, MD, Medical Director *HRO*
Bruce Barton, EMT-P, Director *BB*

RE: Mandatory ECG Transmission

DATE: February 1, 2011

12-Lead ECG transmission has been discussed in Riverside County for over five years, and we now need to move in the direction of 12-Lead ECG transmission. The purpose of 12-Lead ECG transmission is to expedite the arrival of cardiac catheterization laboratory personnel and cardiologists which would, in turn, reduce the door to balloon (D2B) and EMS to balloon (E2B) times for patients suffering from a ST-Elevation MI.

On June 28, 2010 the EMS Agency announced that as of January 1, 2012, ECG transmission would become mandatory on all ALS transport units in Riverside County. The eventual plan is for all ALS providers, transport and first responder, to have 12-Lead ECG transmission capabilities. The EMS Agency is willing to work with ALS providers to implement ECG transmission while remaining cognizant of financial repercussions for providers.

STEMI Receiving Centers need to have a means by which to accept and ensure transmitted ECGs are read by emergency department physicians, and interventional cardiologists. In addition, STEMI Receiving Centers will need to adopt standardized policies mandating cardiac catheterization teams and the interventional cardiologists to respond within a predetermined timeframe for patients identified as suffering from a STEMI in the prehospital setting.

We remain committed to maintaining the highest standard of care for the citizens of Riverside County while remaining aware of financial impacts on our hospitals and providers.

If you have any questions, please contact the EMS Agency at (951) 358-5029.