

## **POLICY #218 UPGRADE DOWNGRADE OR CANCELLATION OF EMS RESPONSE**

### I. PURPOSE

- A. To define the parameters by which on scene first response personnel may upgrade, downgrade, or cancel an EMS response within San Luis Obispo County.

### II. POLICY

#### A. Cancelling an EMS Response

1. The IC or designee on scene of an incident may cancel a responding EMS resource upon determination of any of the following:
  - a. A patient cannot be located.
  - b. That the incident does not involve an injury or illness which would require assessment, treatment, or transport.
  - c. When the patient is a competent adult and is refusing EMS assessment and or transport.
  - d. The patient meets the criteria in III. C. for SLOEMSA Policy #125: Prehospital Determination of Death / Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/End of Life Care (obvious death or no signs of life and has a verified DNR order).

#### B. Downgrading an EMS Response

1. The IC or designee on scene of an incident may reduce a responding EMS resource from code 3 to code 2 upon determination that, in the best judgment of the IC or designee, the illness or injury is not immediately life threatening and that the difference in code 3 and code 2 response time would not likely have an impact on patient safety/outcome. Consider hemodynamic stability, stable/unstable; see Policy #601: Universal Attachment A.

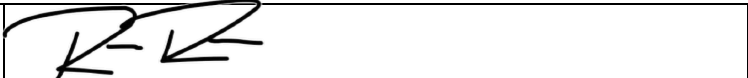

#### C. Upgrading an EMS Response

1. The IC or designee on the scene of an incident may upgrade a responding EMS resource from code 2 to code 3 upon determination that, in the best judgment of the IC or designee, the illness or injury is immediately life threatening or that the difference in code 2 and code 3 response time would potentially have a positive impact on patient safety/outcome. Consider hemodynamic stability, stable/unstable; see Policy #601: Universal Attachment A.

### III. AUTHORITY

- California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.220, & 1798
- California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Sections 100147, 100169 & 100170

Approvals:

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| EMS Agency, Administrator    |  |
| EMS Agency, Medical Director |  |