I. PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the transfer of a trauma patient from a hospital in Ventura County to a Level II trauma center.


III. POLICY: The following criteria will be used as a guideline for the transfer of a trauma patient to a trauma center.

A. Life-threatening injuries to trauma center
   1. Carotid or vertebral arterial injury
   2. Torn thoracic aorta or great vessel
   3. Cardiac rupture
   4. Bilateral pulmonary contusion with PaO2 to FiO2 ratio less than 200
   5. Major abdominal vascular injury
   6. Grade IV, V or VI liver injuries
   7. Grade III, IV or V spleen injuries
   8. Unstable pelvic fracture
   9. Fracture or dislocation with neurovascular compromise
   10. Penetrating injury or open fracture of the skull
   11. Glasgow Coma Scale score <14 or lateralizing neurologic signs
   12. Unstable spinal fracture or spinal cord deficit
   13. >2 unilateral rib fractures or bilateral rib fractures with pulmonary contusion
   14. Open long bone fracture
   15. Significant torso injury with advanced co-morbid disease (such as coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, type 1 diabetes mellitus, or immunosuppression)
16. Any traumatic injury that meets criteria as a life-or-limb threatening injury as listed in VCEMSA Policy 1407, “Emergency Trauma Transfers”

B. Ventura County Level II Trauma Centers:

1. Agree to immediately accept from Ventura County community hospitals, patients with conditions included in the guidelines above.
2. Will publish a point-of-contact phone number for an individual authorized to accept the transfer of a patient with a condition included in the guidelines above, or to request consultation with a trauma surgeon.
3. Will establish a written interfacility transfer agreement with every hospital in Ventura County.

C. Community Hospitals:

1. Are not required to transfer patients with conditions included in the guidelines above to a trauma center when resources and capabilities for providing care exist at their facility.
2. Will enter into a written interfacility transfer agreement with every trauma center in Ventura County.

D. A transfer from a community hospital to a trauma center for a patient with a condition NOT included in the guidelines above shall be arranged per VCEMS Policy 605: “Interfacility Transfer of Patients.”

E. An emergent transfer will be arranged as a Code Trauma, per VCEMS Policy 1407: “Emergency Trauma Transfers.”