June 18, 2013

Board of Supervisors  
Kern County Administrative Center  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, California 93301

PROPOSED AGREEMENTS WITH BAKERSFIELD HEART HOSPITAL AND SAN JOAQUIN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOR DESIGNATION AS A “STEMI” RECEIVING CENTER  
(Fiscal Impact: None)

The purpose of this letter is to request your Board’s approval of the proposed Agreements with Bakersfield Heart Hospital and San Joaquin Community Hospital to authorize the hospitals as “S-T Elevation Myocardial Infarction” (STEMI) receiving centers effective June 18, 2013.

On June 26, 2012, your Board approved the STEMI System of Care Policy, which established the framework for implementation of STEMI procedures. Nationally, significant improvements in patient outcomes are being seen in places that have implemented STEMI systems. Collaboratively building a system that involves dispatchers, first-responders, ambulances, paramedics, hospital emergency departments, hospital cath labs, cardiologists, nurses, and technicians to streamline systems and improve the speed in which care is delivered improves patient outcomes. With goals of “door-to-treatment” of 60 minutes and “first EMS contact-to-hospital treatment” of 90 minutes, survival rates for these type of heart attacks is increasing.

Execution of these Agreements formally designates these hospitals as STEMI Receiving Centers and allows the hospitals to coordinate with paramedics to quickly identify specific types of heart attack victims. This coordination facilitates activation of the hospital’s Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory team and provides rapid in-hospital treatment.

These hospitals meet all the requirements necessary to satisfy the standards for this designation, as they have gone through an extensive process to achieve and maintain a higher standard of care for STEMI patients. Some of the commitments to improve care include: operation of a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year with a 30-minute call back response time; availability of specialized physician and nurse staffing; transfer agreements with other hospitals to accept STEMI patients rapidly; and participation in the County-wide STEMI Quality Improvement Committee for continuous improvement of care.

These hospitals will be identified as a STEMI destination, thereby directing paramedics to deliver patients suffering a confirmed STEMI event to these hospitals, in many cases. As other hospitals achieve STEMI Receiving Center designation, the destination options will be expanded to include them as well.

These Agreements have been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.
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Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED your Board approve and authorize Chairman to sign the Agreements with Bakersfield Heart Hospital and San Joaquin Community Hospital for designation as STEMI receiving centers effective June 18, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Matthew Constantine
Director of Public Health Services

MC: bnm:dw
Attachments
C: County Administrative Office
County Counsel