



San Joaquin County

Emergency Medical Services Agency



Memorandum

DATE: September 12, 2024

TO: All Prehospital Personnel and Providers
Base Hospital Personnel

FROM: Dr. Katherine Shafer, EMS Medical Director
Jared Bagwell, EMS Director

SUBJ: Prehospital Ventilators - EMT Scope of Practice

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify that Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in San Joaquin County are not authorized to manage patients on mechanical ventilators that are not designed for prehospital use.

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, §100063, Basic Scope of Practice of EMT, and SJCEMSA EMS Policy No. 2360, Emergency Medical Technician Scope of Practice, section III., F., 5, allow for "*Manual and mechanical ventilating devices designed for prehospital use...*", such as transport ventilators. This does not include other mechanical ventilators not designed for the prehospital setting. Currently, prehospital transport ventilators are not available in the San Joaquin County EMS system.

EMT's may consider the transport of mechanical ventilators in the following cases:

1. When a trained caretaker accompanies the patient and manages the ventilator, or
2. When the patient has capacity and manages their own ventilator.

In no case will an EMT attempt to modify the settings on a ventilator and will immediately switch to positive pressure ventilation (PPV) should there be a ventilator failure or clinical indications that require PPV.