



**COMPREHENSIVE CHILDRENS EMERGENCY RECEIVING CENTER  
DESIGNATION CRITERIA**



I. AUTHORITY:

*California Health and Safety Code, Division 2, Chapter 2, Article I, Section 1255.1; Division 2.5, Chapter 2, Sections 1797.67 and 1797.88; Division 2.5, Chapter 4, Section 1797.220 and Chapter 6, Article 3, Section 1798.170. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7, Section 100243.*

II. APPLICATION:

This policy defines the requirements for designation as an Orange County Comprehensive Children's Emergency Receiving Center (CCERC) to receive emergency and critically ill pediatric patients transported by the emergency medical services system.

A CCERC will provide specialized pediatric care for emergency and critically ill pediatric patients presenting via the 9-1-1 system or by emergency interfacility transfer from an Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) Emergency Receiving Center (ERC) assigned to that CCERC. Patients eligible for 9-1-1 field triage or transfer to a CCERC include pediatric patients identified by the base hospital physician or transferring physician as critically ill and who would benefit from pediatric specialty services.

III. DESIGNATION:

A. Initial Designation Criteria

1. Hospitals applying for initial designation as a CCERC must submit a request to Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) and evidence of compliance to all criteria in this policy.
2. Hospital shall meet or exceed California Children's Services (CCS) standards for Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICU's).
3. Hospital shall have an emergency department capable of managing pediatric emergencies.
4. OCEMS will evaluate the request and determine the need for an additional CCERC. If such need is identified, OCEMS will request the interested hospital to provide:
  - a. Policies and agreements as described in Section X of this policy.
  - b. The following hospital specific information for pediatric patients:
    1. Number of pediatric intensive care beds.
    2. Number of pediatric patients treated by the hospital in the past three years.
    3. Number of pediatric patients transferred for pediatric specific care in last three years.
    4. Number of pediatric patients admitted past three years.
5. OCEMS will review the submitted material, perform a site visit, and meet with the hospital representatives. In addition, the following information will be collected by OCEMS and considered in the designation process:
  - a. Emergency Department diversion statistics during the past three years.
  - b. Emergency Intra-facility transfers during the past three years, including transfers for higher level of care or for management of emergency and critically ill pediatric patients.



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6. Following review, OCEMS will provide the designation decision to the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee and the Emergency Medical Care Committee for endorsement or denial of endorsement for designation of up to three years as a CCERC.
7. An approved CCERC will have a written agreement as described in Section X of this policy and pay the established Health Care Agency fee.

**B. Continuing Designation**

1. OCEMS will review each designated CCERC for compliance to criteria as described in this policy every three years or more often if deemed necessary by the OCEMS Medical Director. Each CCERC will be required to submit specific written materials to demonstrate evidence of compliance to criteria established by this policy and pay the established fee. A site visit may be required at the discretion of the OCEMS Medical Director.
2. OCEMS will provide its designation decision to the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee and the Emergency Medical Care Committee for endorsement or denial of endorsement for continued designation of up to three years.

**C. Change in Ownership / Change in Executive or Management Staff**

1. In the event of a change in ownership of the hospital, continued CCERC designation will require adherence to this policy with review and approval of continued designation by the OCEMS Medical Director. OCEMS shall be notified, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the effective date of any changes in hospital ownership. Change in hospital ownership may require redesignation by OCEMS.
2. OCEMS shall be notified, in writing, at least 10 days prior to the effective date of any changes in key CCERC personnel as identified in Section VI, (A) (D) and (F) below.

**D. Denial / Suspension / Revocation of Designation**

1. OCEMS may deny, suspend, or revoke the designation of a CCERC for failure to comply with any applicable OCEMS policy or procedure, state and/or federal laws.
  - a. Failure to comply with data submission requirements for three (3) consecutive months will result in automatic suspension of CCERC designation.
2. The process for appeal of suspension or revocation will adhere to OCEMS Policy #640.00 and #645.00.

**E. Cancellation of Designation / Reduction or Elimination of Services by CCERC**

1. CCERC designation may be canceled by the CCERC upon 90 days written notice to OCEMS.
2. Hospitals considering a reduction or elimination of emergency services must notify the California Department of Public Health and the Orange County Health Care Agency/ EMS a minimum of 90 days prior to the planned reduction or elimination of services.

**IV. HOSPITAL LICENSING and ACCREDITATION:**

- A. Hospital shall possess a current California Department of Public Health permit for basic or comprehensive emergency services.
- B. Hospital shall maintain accreditation by an accreditation organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

