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ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

No. 22-BUL-007

TO: Contra Costa County First Responders, Transport Providers, and Acute Care Receiving Facilities

FROM: Dr. Senai Kidane, EMS Medical Director *Senai Kidane*

DATE: May 17, 2022

SUBJECT: PES Pediatric Capacity

As many of you have likely seen and felt, rates of mental health illness in children are on the rise nationally, particularly in the adolescent population. Our existing policy has been that children on 5150 holds be transported to Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) at CCRMC where they can begin receiving psychiatric emergency care and crisis intervention immediately. PES is a small, congregate facility that services adults and youth. Youth and adults must be segregated for safety reasons. Infrequently, but periodically (~ once yearly based on historical data), PES reaches or exceeds their capacity to care for youth safely in this environment, currently maxed out at 8 youth.

Beginning May 11, 2022, when PES houses 8 or more pediatric patients, they will activate a Peds-PES pill on the ReddiNet "Status" screen which will signify pediatric saturation at PES. When, and for the duration this button is active, EMS field providers shall transport 5150 pediatric patients (\leq 17 years old) to the closest, most appropriate Emergency Department, with crews encouraged to transport the patient preferentially to their medical home facility, which if appropriate, includes the ED at CCRMC. This will provide the best opportunity for the patient to receive definitive care in the shortest amount of time. Impact to individual receiving facilities is expected to be minor and PES will actively work to decompress their department and increase capacity for youth during these periods. Please note, this directive does not apply to adults.

Questions regarding this bulletin can be directed to Michelle Voos michelle.voos@cchealth.org