

**6102****Hospital Emergency
Services Reduction
Impact Assessment****Administrative Policy**Last Reviewed: **October 4, 2022**Last Revised: **December 1, 2023****PURPOSE**

To provide a mechanism for REMSA to evaluate and report on the potential impact on the EMS system due to the reduction or closure of emergency services in hospitals.

Hospital Emergency Services Reduction Impact Assessment

Acute care hospitals intending to implement either a reduction or closure of emergency services must advise REMSA as soon as possible, but at least 90 days prior to the proposed change. The notification of change proposal must include:

1. Reason for the proposed change(s).
2. Itemization of the services currently provided and the exact nature of the proposed change(s).
3. Description of the local geography, surrounding services, the average volume of calls.
4. Description of potential impact on the EMS community regarding patient volume and type of prehospital and emergency department services available. A pre/post comparison of services should be included.
5. Description of potential impact on the public regarding accessibility of comparable alternative facilities or services. Include a pre/post comparison.

Evaluation Process

1. Upon receiving notification from a hospital or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) of a planned reduction or elimination of emergency medical services, all local hospitals, fire departments, and ambulance providers, and all local planning authorities will be notified.
2. Within 30 days of notification, REMSA, in consultation with emergency service providers and planning/zoning authorities, will complete and distribute a draft EMS Impact Evaluation and set a public hearing date. At a minimum, the Impact Evaluation shall include:
 - a. Assessment of community access to emergency medical care.
 - b. Effect on emergency services provided by other entities.
 - c. Impact on the local EMS system.
 - d. System strategies for accommodating the reduction or loss of emergency services.
 - e. Potential options, if known.
 - f. Public and emergency services provider comments.
 - g. Suggested/recommended actions.
3. Within 45 days of notification, REMSA will release the draft impact evaluation report to EMS stakeholders for a ten (10) business day comment period. Following the ten (10) day comment period, REMSA will conduct at least one (1) public hearing and incorporate the results of the hearing/s into a final Impact Evaluation. Public hearing(s) may be incorporated with other public meetings held by the Public Health Department, Board of Supervisors and/or other government agencies, commissions, or committees.
4. Within 60 days of receiving notice, REMSA will prepare the final Impact Evaluation, and submit these findings to the CDPH, California EMS Authority, Board of Supervisors, Emergency Medical Care Committee, and all impacted city councils, fire departments, ambulance services, hospitals, planning authorities, local EMS participants and other interested parties.
5. REMSA will serve notice of the public hearing to the community through standard and reasonable efforts (e.g., local newspapers and notices at hospitals) within the affected areas of the County.
6. Within five (5) days of notification of reduction or closure of service(s), the hospital proposing a reduction or closure of service(s) will be charged a \$1,500.00 fee by REMSA for the Impact Evaluation.