

Sheila de la Guerra *Public Comment*



09/18/23

**From:** John Anis <janis@sbch.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 4:42 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Emergency Directors Re: Interfacility Transfers (IFT's)  
**Attachments:** IFT letter 9.18.23 final.pdf

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John O. Anis, MD FACEP  
Emergency Department  
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital

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September 18, 2023

Board of Supervisors,

We the undersigned representing the Emergency Department Directors of every Emergency Department in Santa Barbara County write to express our unified concerns in regard to the future plans for inter-facility transports in the Santa Barbara County EMS system. We write to you as individual community Emergency physicians and not on behalf of the hospital systems we are affiliated with.

Inter-facility Transports (IFT's) are crucial to the safety net of the EMS system in Santa Barbara County. This allows for patients who may need a higher level of care to be transported in a timely manner to the facility best able to care for their medical emergency. These are time sensitive and to maintain the excellent care we provide to the community it is imperative this service is maintained on a 24/7 basis 365 days per year. Additionally, when timely transfers are not part of the foundation of emergency care, the entire system is placed in jeopardy. We have a finite number of Emergency Department beds. If patients needing transfer are lingering, the bed they occupy is no longer available for the next emergency patient. This includes time critical cases such as strokes, heart attacks, and traumas.

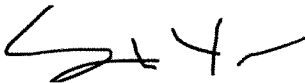
We the undersigned implore you to ensure there is a functional, reliable, patient centered transfer system in place before any changes to the existing system is modified. The health of our community depends on it.



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Medical Director Emergency Department  
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital



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