# Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

# e M E D S ® B U L L E T I N

# **Documentation of Alternative Destination / Telemedicine**

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#### Overview

Consistent documentation of patient encounters that involve an alternative destination is important for accurate patient care and system improvement. As a form of alternative destination, telemedicine involves real-time consultation and clinical decision-making, often without transport to an emergency department. Appropriate documentation of these encounters is also essential to provide a clear understanding of their role within our EMS system.

### **eMEDS Documentation**

To properly document the use of Telemedicine, the clinician should document this action as a Procedure.

### **Procedures**

Enter as appropriate for the available fields. Special attention shall be given to the following fields:

- Procedure Name: Telemedicine
- Authorizing Physician: Name of Doctor and/or Organization Contacted

Any use of the Alternative Destination Protocol should also include the outcome in the Alternative Disposition question in the Disposition section of the report.

## **Alternative Disposition Offer and Result**

- Alternative Disposition Not Offered
- Alternative Disposition Offered, Accepted by Patient
- Alternative Disposition Offered, Refused by Patient

The EMS Applications Administrator shall make the "Alternative Disposition Offer and Result" question visible to those EMSOPs approved by the Office of the State EMS Medical Director.



