

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

To: EMS Stakeholders

From: William Teufel, MD
Marin County EMS Medical Director

Re.: Recent Changes in County Communication Procedures
New Anticoagulant

Date: November 16, 2010

The Marin County Communications Center has recently been authorized to begin screening non-traumatic chest pain patients for administration of aspirin prior to EMS arrival. They will be following the established Priority Dispatch Aspirin Diagnostic and Instruction Tool. Should the patient meet criteria, dispatchers will instruct the patient to chew one adult aspirin or four baby aspirins. Such patients would not require additional aspirin from EMS personnel. Documentation regarding the administration of aspirin should be included in the electronic patient care record.

Communications Center has also been authorized to screen all cardiac arrest situations for patients where death was expected, again following Priority Dispatch protocol. If the patient meets criteria for Expected Death, a single unit will be dispatched Code 2.

I would also like to make all EMS providers aware that a new anticoagulant, Pradaxa (Dabigatran) has been shown to be as effective as Coumadin (Warfarin) in many situations. All providers will need to screen for its use when taking an anticoagulation history.