

# PHHS BLOCK GRANT SUCCESS STORY 2016

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## EMS PREHOSPITAL DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICES AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

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**Issue:** Time spent by EMS personnel waiting for the transfer of a patient can impact their ability to return to the field. Falls, for example, are a frequent source of severe injuries, accounting for 56% of all non-traffic accidents for children (0-14) and 90% of all non-traffic accidents for persons over 64 years old.<sup>1</sup> When a child or an elderly person falls, the chance of a serious injury is high; a quick transition from the emergency medical field staff to hospital staff can be critical.

**Intervention:** The California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) is studying how to alleviate delays in patient transfer from field emergency staff to hospital staff by developing a tracking tool (Ambulance Patient Offload Time [APOT]) to monitor the times and identify issues related to delays. APOT tracks the time to move the patient from the emergency medical field staff to the hospital medical care staff.

**Impact:** Developing data that tracks the time to transition a patient from the emergency field staff to hospital medical care staff helps to develop best practices for patient care. The routine measurement of performance and clinical treatment allows Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to benchmark best practices, with the goal of continually improving their care to patients in an emergency setting.

PHHS Block Grant funds have provided the necessary support for EMSA to develop reports that track transition time; the result is improved public health because EMS personnel can return more quickly to the field.