



6301

**Specialty Care Center
Designation****Administrative Policy**Last Reviewed: **July 1, 2026**Last Revised: **July 1, 2026****PURPOSE**

To establish standards for the designation, re-designation, and de-designation, of specialty care centers (Trauma, STEMI, Stroke, and Pediatric Receiving Center) in Riverside County. Additional requirements may be stipulated by the REMSA Medical Director.

SPECIALTY CARE SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

The need for additional specialty care centers in Riverside County, regardless of type, shall be assessed by the Riverside County EMS Agency (REMSA). This assessment will include, but not be limited to:

- Geographic location(s) of the proposed specialty care center(s) which will include, at a minimum, appropriateness based on projected population growth
- Prehospital transport time(s)
- Projected patient volume
- Projected impact on existing designated center(s)
- Hospital services available for specialty care

INITIAL DESIGNATION/HIGHER LEVEL CENTER DESIGNATION PROCEDURES

Prior to receiving an application for specialty care designation, the requesting hospital must submit a letter of intent to REMSA. Once reviewed, a specialty care system assessment will be performed within ninety (90) days of the date of the received request.

- Applicants requesting consideration to be designated as a Trauma receiving center in Riverside County must refer to REMSA Policy 5304 *Trauma Center Standards* for more information regarding designation requirements.
- Applicants requesting consideration to be designated as a Pediatric receiving center in Riverside County must refer to REMSA Policy 5306 *Pediatric Receiving Center Standards* for more information regarding designation requirements.
- Applicants requesting consideration to be designated as a STEMI receiving center in Riverside County must refer to REMSA Policy 5401 *STEMI Center Standards* for more information regarding designation requirements.
- Applicants requesting consideration to be designated as a Stroke receiving center in Riverside County must refer to REMSA Policy 5701 *Stroke Center Standards* for more information regarding designation requirements.

REMSA approved accreditation/certification/verifying entities:

STEMI

American College of Cardiology (ACC) **OR**
Primary Heart Attack Center (PHAC)

Stroke

Joint Commission (TJC) **OR**
Det Norske Veritas (DNV) **OR**
Accreditation Commission for
Healthcare (ACHC)

Trauma

American College of Surgeons (ACS)
*Level IV trauma centers must remain in
compliance with current ACS standards

If it is determined that the addition of a new or higher level of specialty care service would fill a recognized service gap in that geographical area, the requesting hospital must present a proposal of their program to the appropriate committee (Trauma, STEMI, or Stroke), which will include all relevant data that validates how their program will fill that gap.

1. Following the committee meeting, a recommendation will be made to the REMSA Medical Director.

2. If the requesting hospital's proposal establishes that they are able to satisfy the needs of the system, they will receive an application for their specialty care program.

Once submitted to REMSA, the application review process will be completed within ninety (90) days. Specialty care center designation may be granted only after the following criteria have been met:

- A system assessment of program gaps
- Recommendation to the REMSA Medical Director from the appropriate specialty care committee(s)
- A satisfactory review of a completed application
- REMSA participation in initial accreditation/certification/verification survey(s) with verifying entities
- Supporting written documentation and
- An initial, and satisfactory, site survey by REMSA personnel

RE-DESIGNATION PROCEDURES

To achieve re-designation as a specialty care center in Riverside County, each specialty care center must:

1. Meet all applicable regulations listed in Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 6 for the specific requested program, and the standards and requirements listed in all applicable REMSA policies (5304, 5306, 5401, and/or 5701)
2. Successfully pass an audit performed by REMSA
3. Achieve re-accreditation/recertification/reverification by one (1) of the verifying entities (as applicable):

<u>STEMI</u>	<u>Stroke</u>	<u>Trauma</u>
American College of Cardiology (ACC) OR Primary Heart Attack Center (PHAC)	Joint Commission (TJC) OR Det Norske Veritas (DNV) OR Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC)	American College of Surgeons (ACS) *Level IV trauma centers must remain in compliance with current ACS standards

REMSA staff will attend and perform audits during the entirety of all accreditation, certification, or verification surveys. A copy of the renewal certificate will be provided to REMSA no less than thirty (30) days prior to current expiration.

DESIGNATION TERMINATION/SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

Termination for Cause

REMSA may terminate its specialty care center designation agreement with any designated specialty care center if it is determined that they have:

1. Failed to comply with current regulations as outlined in Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 6
2. Failed to comply with current REMSA policy as outlined in policies 5304, 5306, 5401 and/or 5701
3. Had their license to operate as a PRC revoked or suspended

Suspension of Designation

REMSA may immediately suspend its specialty care center designation agreement with any designated specialty care center upon written notice if it is determined that they:

1. Have failed to cooperate with quality assurance procedures, data requirements, audit findings and/or recommendations provided by REMSA.
2. Are in gross default of material obligation as specified in their agreement with REMSA.
3. (Trauma Centers only) Fail to obtain ACS verification if currently under a provisional designation. Hospital will then revert back to previous level trauma center prior to the provisional designation.

Failure to remedy the issues identified in #1 and/or #2 above ("Suspension of Designation") within the time specified by REMSA will result in termination of the agreement for specialty care designation.

Voluntary De-Designation

Any specialty care center may voluntarily terminate their agreement for specialty care services upon thirty (30) days written notice to REMSA.