

Monterey County EMS System Policy



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ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORT (ALS) AGENCY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish requirements for the designation of a Monterey County Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport Agency.


II. DEFINITIONS

- A. An Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport Agency means a public or private corporation, institution or agency which has demonstrated the capability to meet all criteria for approval and has a written agreement signed by the EMS Director to provide ALS ambulance services to a designated geographic area.
- B. An ALS ambulance means a Monterey County designated emergency vehicle staffed by and equipped to provide ALS at the scene of an emergency and/or during transport of (a) patient(s) experiencing a medical emergency to a hospital.

III. REQUIREMENTS

- A. A designated ALS Transport Agency shall:
 - 1. Have a written agreement with the local EMS Agency to participate in the ALS program and to will comply with all applicable State regulations and local policies, and procedures, and ordinances.
 - 2. Provide emergency medical service response on a continuous twenty-four (24) hours per day basis.
 - 3. Have and agree to utilize and maintain communications as specified by the EMS Agency.
 - 4. Have and agree to maintain a drug and solution inventory, and BLS and ALS medical equipment and supplies as specified by the EMS Agency.
 - 5. Designate a Quality Improvement Manager who shall be at minimum an EMT-P and the liaison to the County, the ALS Base Hospital, and ALS Receiving Hospital(s).
 - 6. Participate in the Monterey County Approved Quality Improvement Program.
 - 7. Establish a mechanism to ensure that all EMT-Ps employed by the agency are currently licensed and hold all required certificates (CPR, ACLS, PALS or equivalent, PHTLS or equivalent).
 - 8. Agree to permit EMS Agency staff to observe on ambulances.
 - 9. Agree to permit base hospital coordinators and emergency department physicians to observe on MICUs.

10. Agree to provide paramedic internship opportunities to qualified applicants in accordance with County policy.
 11. Agree to utilize the assigned Base Hospital for on-line medical direction.
 12. Agree to provide visible identification of paramedic personnel at all times when those personnel are on duty.
 13. Agree to notify the EMS Agency of significant operational problems or changes and unusual occurrences in a timely manner and as per policy, including changes in the number of units, permanent unit locations(s), and major agency personnel changes.
 14. Ensure liability, malpractice, and other insurances necessary for participation in the ALS Program.
 15. All ALS ambulances, both public and private, shall be staffed at minimum with one (1) licensed EMT-P(Paramedic). It is the responsibility of the ALS Transport Agency to ensure the availability of well-trained and rested personnel necessary to provide optimal patient care.
 16. Any person who drives an ambulance will have in his/her possession a valid California Driver's License and a current, valid Ambulance Driver's Certificate. (Ambulance may be driven by individuals who do not possess an Ambulance Driver's Certificate if they are salaried full-time police officers, deputy sheriffs or fire fighters, as per Title 13, Section 1100.2 California Code of Regulations).
- B. All ALS ambulances will be stationed in such a manner as to permit arrival at the scene of an emergency within the requirements set forth for each Agency as per contract.
- C. The ALS Transport Agency shall not respond to any inter-facility transfer request when doing so requires the use of the last or only unit available to serve the Agency's response zone.
- D. No Agency shall advertise itself or a responding unit as providing ALS services unless it does, in fact, routinely provide ALS services on a continuous twenty-four (24) hour per day basis and is currently designated by the EMS Director per contract to provide such services.
- E. The EMS Agency may deny, suspend or revoke the contract with an ALS Transport Agency, as per the contract, for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures, and regulations.


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