

Subject: Administration – Patient Care  
Cancellation and Transfer of Patient Care Policy

Associated Policies:

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- I. Authority and Reference (incorporated herein by references)
  - A. Division 2.5 of Health and Safety Code
  - B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
  - C. North Coast EMS Policies and Procedures
- II. Purpose
  - A. To provide guidelines for the transfer of care from non-transporting ALS personnel in the prehospital setting to a transporting ALS ambulance.
  - B. To provide guidelines for the transfer of care from an on-scene paramedic to a Basic Life Support (BLS) staffed with an EMT attendant transport ambulance.
  - C. To provide guidelines for the cancellation of ALS response by BLS (Public Safety, First Responders or EMTs) personnel.
- III. Continuum of Patient Care First Responder Paramedics:
  - A. First Responder paramedics, when first on-scene, should transfer patient care authority and provide a verbal report to the transporting paramedic as soon as feasible.
  - B. If the patient is in extremis, the non-transporting paramedic should continue patient care with the transporting paramedic to avoid any unnecessary delays in transport.
  - C. The non-transport paramedic shall provide a verbal report of patient assessment and treatment provided to ensure the continuum of patient care.
  - C. When a patient's condition clearly does not require the scope of practice of the higher certificate holder the patient may be released to the care of the lower certificate holder.
  - D. Transfer of care by ground personnel shall be made to an EMS aircraft crew with equal or higher medical training EXCEPT:
    - 1. When a BLS rescue aircraft arrives on scene (i.e. USCG/Cal Fire) and
      - a. the aircraft is unable to take the highest medical authority on the ground onboard and
      - b. rapid transport outweighs any benefits of continued ALS care.
- IV. Guidelines for Cancellation of ALS transport personnel by BLS transport personnel:
  - A. In general, BLS transport personnel at the scene of a medical emergency should not transport if ALS transport personnel are responding. Ordinarily, BLS transport personnel should wait for ALS transport

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personnel to arrive at the scene. The following exceptions may be applied:

1. The patient is suffering from an injury or illness which clearly requires rapid transport in order to reduce the risk of increased morbidity or mortality caused by delayed transport or,
  2. The patient clearly has only a minor injury or illness which has no apparent indication for ALS care.
- B. If, in the opinion of BLS transport personnel, the patient meets one of the above exceptions for cancellation of ALS with BLS transport, then the BLS transport provider shall initiate transport and contact the base hospital by radio or telephone with a complete report of the patient's condition.
- C. Transporting BLS units should attempt to rendezvous with an ALS unit between the scene and receiving hospital if transport time is extended.
- V. Guidelines for Cancellation of ALS transport personnel by on scene BLS personnel:
- A. BLS personnel (Public Safety, First Responders, EMT) may cancel ALS responders (transporting or non-transporting) if the patient refuses ALS assessment and has no complaints of injury or illness.
  - B. If patient has obvious injuries (regardless of severity) BLS personnel should encourage the patient to allow further assessment.

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| Approved By<br>EMS Director | <b>Larry Karsteadt</b><br>(Signature on File at EMS Agency)  | Revision          |
| EMS Medical Director        | <b>Matthew Karp, MD</b><br>(Signature on File at EMS Agency) | <b>11/09/2022</b> |