

Subject: Scope of Practice/Procedure – ALS LOCAL OPTIONAL SCOPE
Antibiotics Continuation Infusion during Interfacility Transport

Associated Policies:

- I. Authority:
 - A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.
 - B. North Coast EMS Policies and Procedures

- II. Purpose:
 - A. To provide a mechanism for approved North Coast EMS Agency accredited Paramedics to continue an infusion of antibiotics during interfacility transfers.

- III. Policy:
 - A. Only North Coast EMS accredited Paramedics who have successfully completed training program(s) approved by the North Coast EMS Medical Director on antibiotic infusions will be permitted to monitor them during interfacility transports.
 - B. Only ALS ambulance providers approved by the North Coast EMS Medical Director will be permitted to provide the service of monitoring antibiotic infusions during interfacility transports.

- IV. Procedure
 - A. PRIOR TO TRANSPORT:
 1. Paramedics can transport patients on antibiotic drips within the following parameters:
 - a. The antibiotic, dose, rate, and expected infusion time remaining is per the sending facility and must be documented in the patient care report.
 - b. The antibiotic must be started at the sending facility 15 minutes prior to departure.
 - c. The antibiotic shall be administered via infusion pump or an in-line rate control device. It shall never be administered by the paramedic via IV push or uncontrolled gravity sets.

 - B. DURING TRANSPORT:
 1. Patient will be monitored in transport for any signs of anaphylaxis utilizing careful observation, a cardiac monitor, blood pressures, and pulse oximetry. Vital signs shall be documented at a minimum of every 15 minutes.
 2. If anaphylaxis or other adverse or allergic reactions develop, the antibiotic infusion will be discontinued, and treatment rendered per the anaphylaxis protocol.


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2. If medication administration is interrupted (infiltration, accidental disconnection, etc.), the paramedic may restart the line and continue the infusion as delineated in the transfer orders.
3. In cases of IV pump malfunction that cannot be corrected, the medication drip will be discontinued.
4. No other medication or infusion shall be given through the same line.
5. The paramedic may not adjust the rate of the antibiotic infusion except to discontinue it under the circumstances outlined above (anaphylaxis, allergic reaction, pump malfunction).
6. Notify a base or modified base hospital regarding any complications (anaphylaxis, allergic reaction, pump malfunction).
7. Should the paramedic encounter any difficulty in continuing the infusion (i.e., pump failure) the antibiotic infusion can be safely discontinued and restarted at the receiving facility.

C. Quality Assurance:

1. Paramedic transport agencies approved to transport patients with antibiotics are required to provide a report to NCEMS annually to include the following parameters:
 - a. Number of uses and patient presentations.
 - b. Names of transferring facilities.
 - c. Any sentinel events.
 - d. Patient condition at transfer of care.

Approved:  Date: 6/18/21

Approved as to Form:  Date: 6/18/21