The following protocols define basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS) treatment and disposition standards for San Diego County.

1. Treatments are listed in sequential order for each condition. See Skills List (S-104) for skills criteria.

2. All treatments may be performed by the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), AEMT (Advanced Emergency Medical Technician), and/or Paramedic via standing orders (SO) except for those stating, “Base Hospital Order (BHO)” or “Base Hospital Physician Order (BHPO)” or a variation from standard County of San Diego ALS protocols as ordered by the Base Hospital Physician (P-408).

All treatments requiring an order are at the discretion of the Base Hospital providing medical direction. EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics are authorized to implement standing orders without Base Hospital contact. Standing orders may be continued even after Base Hospital contact unless the Base Hospital directs otherwise.

3. EMT skills which took effect July 1, 2017 (including finger-stick blood glucose testing, intranasal naloxone administration, and epinephrine auto-injector assistance) may only be performed when a provider is on-duty operating as part of the organized EMS system, and in the prehospital setting including during interfacility transports.

4. Per Title 22, Chapter 1.5, § 100019, public safety personnel may administer intranasal naloxone when authorized by the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director.

5. BHPO: Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICNs) may relay BHPOs.

   See Physician on Scene (P-403) for situations with a physician on scene.

6. Abbreviations and definition of terms can be found in the Glossary of Terms (S-101) and List of Abbreviations (S-102).

7. All medications ordered are to be administered per protocols unless there is a contraindication, such as an allergy.

8. If there is a change in patient condition, a different protocol may be applied.

9. Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used on all patient contacts per Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Contagions and Contaminants (S-009).