

**Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol**

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**SUBJECT:** Designation of Providers of  
Advanced Life Support Service

**POLICY NO:** P-801  
**PAGE:** 1 of 3  
**DATE:** March 1, 2011

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.206, 1797.218  
and 1797.220; and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter  
4, Article 5.

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## I. PURPOSE

To approve and designate Paramedic service providers in San Diego County

## II. BACKGROUND

### A. Definitions

Advanced Life Support (ALS)  
Response:

Any medical aid call in which paramedics are dispatched to the scene on a ground transporting unit, and/or any call that has been screened or prioritized in accordance with an approved dispatch plan as necessitating an ALS level of response.

Approved Dispatch Plan:

A dispatch plan approved by the County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS).

Local Jurisdiction:

The County, a city, water district, fire protection district, or county service area.

## III. POLICY

**A.** To be designated as a paramedic service provider in San Diego County, a local jurisdiction or air ambulance provider designated as a primary response air ambulance in accordance with the San Diego County Ambulance Ordinance shall:

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**POLICY NO:** P-801  
**PAGE:** 2 of 3  
**DATE:** March 1, 2011

---

1. Enter into a written agreement with CoSD EMS to perform as a paramedic service provider.
2. Provide ALS service on a continuous 24 hour a day basis.
3. Provide emergency medical responses in accordance with the following requirements:
  - a. Ground ALS Response – Ensure that at least two paramedics are initially dispatched to each ALS response and that a ground transport vehicle is simultaneously dispatched to all ALS responses unless an alternate dispatch plan, which has been approved by CoSD EMS, is in effect. In systems where ALS First Responder units dispatch, the ALS First Responder shall be equipped in accordance with CoSD EMS Policy P-806 “ALS First Responder Inventory”.
  - b. Air Ambulance Response – Ensure that all primary response air ambulances are staffed in accordance with the provisions of the San Diego County Ambulance Ordinance and maintain a minimum staffing level of one Registered Nurse (RN) and one paramedic as flight crew.
4. Require that paramedics establish Base Hospital contact as outlined in CoSD EMS Policy S-415 “Base Hospital Contact/Patient Transportation and Report – Emergency Patients”.
5. Require that paramedics maintain a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) card (Healthcare Provider/Professional Rescuer or equivalent).
6. Require that all paramedics working as a part of the EMS system maintain San Diego County Paramedic Accreditation (see Policy P-305 “Paramedic Accreditation in San Diego County”).
7. Integrate with a first responder system.
8. Enter into a mutual aid agreement with adjoining paramedic agencies whenever possible.
9. Establish the following planned response times:
  - a. Provide for a planned maximum ground ALS response time of no more than 30 minutes 90% of the time in rural areas and no more than 10 minutes 90% of the time in urban areas. In systems that incorporate ALS First Responders, the provider shall plan for a maximum ALS First Responder arrival time of 8 minutes

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**POLICY NO:** P-801  
**PAGE:** 3 of 3  
**DATE:** March 1, 2011

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90% of the time with a maximum ALS Ground Transport response time of 12 minutes 90% of the time.

10. Cooperate with the paramedic training agencies in providing paramedic field internship placements.
11. Provide orientation for first responder agencies to ALS functions and role.
12. Designate an agency Paramedic Coordinator.
13. Submit prehospital patient records via approved CoSD EMS Form 104 or via electronic mean (see Policy S-601 "Documentation Standards and Transferral of Prehospital Care Record (PCR) Information").
14. Agree to participate in community education programs to teach the public 9-1-1 access and CPR.
15. Submit to the CoSD EMS evidence of compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Article 5.
16. Participate in the CoSD EMS quality improvement plan based on state and county regulations and policies.
17. Assess the current knowledge of their paramedics in local policies, procedures, protocols, and skills competency.
18. Contract with a designated base hospital to provide medical direction and supervision to assigned air medical paramedic personnel (designated primary response air ambulance providers only).

**B.** The CoSD EMS shall:

1. Approve paramedic curriculum and training programs.
2. Provide standards for accreditation/authorization and reaccreditation/reauthorization of paramedics and Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICNs) in the County.
3. Contract with designated base hospitals to provide immediate medical direction and supervision of assigned prehospital personnel.
4. Provide prehospital patient record forms or alternate electronic reporting mechanism.
5. Review agreements with each paramedic service provider every two years.