

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

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**SUBJECT:** ALS First Responder Units

**POLICY NO:** P-805

**PAGE:** 1 of 3

**DATE:** July 1, 2010

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.218, and 1797.220.

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## **I. PURPOSE**

To offer a mechanism for designated paramedic service agencies in San Diego County to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) assessment and initial treatment to patients by paramedics prior to arrival of a transporting unit.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Definitions**

ALS First Responder Unit: A non-transporting emergency response vehicle utilized by a designated paramedic service provider which is staffed by at least one paramedic and one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and which complies with the operational criteria outlined in this policy.

ALS Transporting Unit: An emergency response vehicle utilized for patient transport which is staffed with at least one paramedic and one EMT, and which complies with the operational criteria outlined in County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) Policy P-801 "Designation of Providers of Advanced Life Support Service".

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Basic Life Support (BLS)

Transporting Unit:

A response vehicle utilized for emergent or non-emergent patient transport which is staffed with two EMTs, and which complies with the operational criteria outlined in CoSD EMS Policy S-833 "Ground Ambulance Vehicle Requirements".

**III. POLICY**

- A.** Staffing for an ALS first responder unit in San Diego County shall include, at a minimum, one paramedic and one EMT. ALS first responder units shall be equipped with standardized inventory as specified in CoSD EMS Policy P-806 "ALS First Responder Inventory".
- B.** The closest, most appropriate, available ALS transporting unit shall be dispatched simultaneously with the ALS first responder unit if the response meets established criteria for dispatch of an ALS transporting unit.
- C.** If ALS care is initiated and an ALS transporting unit remains unavailable, the ALS first responder unit paramedic shall accompany the patient to the hospital in a BLS transporting unit.
- D.** Each ALS first responder unit will be assigned to a base hospital for medical control by the local EMS agency.
- E.** Approved service provider agencies shall have a current ALS service provider agreement with the CoSD EMS.

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## **IV. PROCEDURES**

### **A. Application/Approval Process**

Application for use of ALS first responder unit(s) shall be submitted in writing to the CoSD EMS Medical Director, and shall include:

1. Identification, location, and average response times of the ALS transporting unit assigned to the geographical area
2. Identification, location, and average response times of the proposed ALS first responder unit(s)
3. Description of the proposed ALS first responder unit staffing to include level(s) of training
4. A statement indicating what optional equipment (if any) will be included in the inventory of the ALS first responding unit

### **B. Operational Requirements**

When the ALS first responder unit arrives on scene prior to the ALS transporting unit, the ALS first responder paramedic shall:

1. Assess and treat the patient.
2. If the ALS first responder paramedic does not accompany the patient to the hospital, transfer of care and information shall occur at the earliest, most appropriate time to facilitate continuity of care and prevent and delay in care.
3. ALS first responder paramedics shall submit completed prehospital patient records in accordance with CoSD EMS Policy S-601 "Documentation Standards and Transferral of Prehospital Care Record (PCR) Information".