

EMT/PARAMEDIC OR NON-TRANSPORT ALS PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

To define criteria for units staffed with one EMT and one Paramedic or non-transport paramedic units.

II. STAFFING

A. Paramedic Non-Transport Units

Paramedic non-transport units are fully equipped advanced life support vehicles, staffed with a minimum of one (1) paramedic, and dispatched simultaneously with an emergency (ALS) transport unit. Paramedics assigned to such units must have the training and experience necessary to function safely as the sole care providers until the fire first responder and transport units arrive. Paramedics assigned to paramedic non-transport units shall be approved by their employers and shall meet the following minimum qualifications for staffing such units:

1. Current accreditation in Contra Costa County
2. At least two (2) years full-time field experience as a paramedic in the last three (3) years
3. No actions against State paramedic license within the past two (2) years

B. Paramedic/EMT-I Units

Paramedic/EMT-I Units are fully equipped fire engines or ambulances staffed with a minimum of one (1) paramedic and one (1) EMT-I. Paramedic personnel assigned to these units must have the experience necessary to function safely as the single advanced life support provider. Personnel assigned to paramedic/EMT-I units shall be approved by their employer and meet the following minimum qualifications for staffing such units:

1. Current accreditation/certification in Contra Costa County
2. Experience requirements:
 - a. Paramedic: at least one (1) year full-time field experience as a paramedic in the last two (2) years, or three (3) years field experience as a paramedic.
 - b. EMT: at least one (1) year full-time field experience as an EMT-I in the last two (2) years, or three (3) years field experience as an EMT-I.

If unable to meet this criteria, personnel must participate in and successfully complete a provisional assignment approved by the EMS Agency.

3. No actions against State paramedic licensure/EMT-I certification within the past two (2) years.

Individuals functioning under a current Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) may be precluded from working on either of these units. Permission to function as a paramedic or an EMT on either of these type of units may be rescinded at any time by the Contra Costa County EMS Medical Director.

III. FIELD TREATMENT

Personnel assigned to a paramedic/EMT unit or a non-transporting ALS unit work under the existing medical control system and follow Contra Costa County EMS field treatment guidelines, policies and procedures, including base hospital contact requirements.

A. Paramedic/EMT Units

1. The paramedic assigned to the unit is ultimately responsible for all patient assessment and care.



2. The EMT may accompany the patient in the patient compartment of the ambulance, if:
 - a. in the paramedic's best judgment, the patient does not currently require ALS care and there is no reasonable possibility of the patient requiring ALS care throughout the transport.
- B. Non-transport ALS Units
 1. The non-transport paramedic shall provide a verbal report of patient assessment and treatment provided, to the transporting ambulance personnel.
 2. A written county patient care report (PCR) shall be completed and sent with the patient if time permits. If the PCR cannot be completed prior to patient transport, the non-transport paramedic shall complete the PCR and fax it to the Emergency Department of the receiving facility as soon as possible.

IV. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- A. Each agency having a paramedic/EMT or non-transport ALS unit program shall have processes identified in their quality improvement plan for review of all calls.
- B. Personnel assigned to a paramedic/EMT or non-transport ALS unit shall be required to complete orientation and training programs which have been developed by the provider agency and approved by the EMS Agency. These requirements may be waived at the discretion of the EMS Medical Director.