

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office
Executive Director

Signature On File In EMS Office
Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE 11/9/11
SUPERSEDES: _____
REVISED: 11/2011
REVIEW DATE: 11/2016
PAGE: 1 of 2

ALS TRANSFER OF PATIENT CARE

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Primary Paramedic means the first Paramedic that makes patient contact at the scene of an emergency and has the lead responsibility to provide patient assessment and patient care until such responsibility is transferred to another Paramedic or flight nurse.
- B. Paramedic means a currently licensed and accredited, on-duty paramedic.
- C. Flight Nurse means a Registered Nurse functioning as a member of an air ambulance crew.
- D. **Air Ambulance** - Means any rotor or fixed wing aircraft specially constructed, modified or equipped, and used for the primary purposes of responding to emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients whose medical flight crew has a minimum of two (2) attendants certified in advanced life support.
- E. **Rescue Aircraft** – means an aircraft whose usual function is not pre hospital emergency patient transport but which may be utilized in compliance with local EMS policy, for pre hospital emergency patient transport when use of an air or ground ambulance is inappropriate or unavailable. Rescue aircraft includes ALS rescue aircraft, BLS rescue aircraft and Auxiliary rescue aircraft.

III. PURPOSE

To ensure that a mechanism exists for appropriate transfer of patient care between Paramedic's, Flight Nurses, and Rescue Aircraft personnel.

IV. POLICY

- A. The first Paramedic that makes patient contact at the scene of an emergency shall be the Primary Paramedic for that patient until such responsibility is transferred to another Paramedic, Flight Nurse or Rescue Aircraft personnel.
- B. Paramedic's are authorized to transfer the role of Primary Paramedic to another Paramedic, Flight Nurse, or Rescue Aircraft personnel when patient condition permits.

- C. All Paramedic's and Flight Nurses on scene have a duty to provide the Primary Paramedic with recommendations and assistance to ensure the best possible patient care as logistics permit and circumstances require.
- D. The Primary Paramedic shall provide other assisting Paramedic's, Flight Nurses or Rescue Aircraft personnel who arrive on scene with all appropriate patient care information.
- F. A Paramedic may transfer patient care to Rescue Aircraft personnel under the following conditions:
 - 1. If an air ambulance is not readily available
 - 2. When it is determined that rapid transport is a prime therapeutic intervention for the patient.
 - 3. If Rescue Aircraft personnel are qualified at less than the Paramedic level, Base Hospital contact shall be made to determine whether or not the Rescue Aircraft will transport the patient.
 - 4. If Base Hospital contact cannot be made, the Incident Commander in concert with the highest medically qualified person on scene, will decide whether the Rescue Aircraft will transport the patient.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. A Primary Paramedic that decides to transfer care to another Paramedic or Flight Nurse shall:
 - 1. Only transfer primary patient care when merited by logistical or operational considerations.
 - 2. Provide complete patient assessment and treatment information to the Paramedic or Flight Nurse accepting responsibility for the patient
 - 3. Ensure the completion of a patient care record per Agency policy.
- B. The Primary Paramedic shall maintain the lead responsibility and accompany the patient during transport when requested by the receiving Paramedic due to the patient's condition or complexity of treatment.
- C. Disagreements between Paramedics or between Paramedics and Flight Nurses regarding the correct course of patient treatment shall be resolved:
 - 1. In consultation with the Base Hospital, if still on scene.
 - 2. Through their respective provider agency's QI program.
 - 3. If unresolved, by submitting an Unusual Occurrence Report Form to the EMS Agency.