



POLICY NO:	531
DATE ISSUED:	11/2001
DATE REVIEWED/REVISED:	06/2009
DATE TO BE REVIEWED:	06/2011

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

### TRANSFER OF PATIENT CARE

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines that assure patient safety and welfare during transfer of the patient care from non-transporting ALS rescue personnel to ALS transporting unit personnel, and that maintain adequate EMS resources.

**Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.220 & 1798. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100175.

**Policy:** The transfer of patient care is a component of the continuum of care. It shall be the policy that care, in most cases, is transferred from the first responder (BLS or ALS) to the transporting paramedic, as outlined in this policy. Consultation with Base Hospital physician may be utilized for final authorization of patient care procedures, where conflict exists.

When an ALS, non-transporting rescue unit and an ALS ambulance unit both respond to a medical call and the non-transporting rescue unit is first on scene:

1. Decisions regarding patient medical control and disposition from scene will be made by mutual agreement of on scene paramedics in all medical response incidents. When agreement cannot be reached, the initial paramedic on scene shall accompany the patient to the hospital

If the first on-scene paramedic retains medical control of the patient then the transporting paramedic will make him or herself available to assist in the overall care of the patient. Their documentation of the patient care encounter will reflect the same.

1. Each unit is responsible for completion of an electronic patient care report (EPCR) for documentation of patient assessment and their interventions on all incidents of transfer of patient care.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Nancy A. Lapolla in blue ink.

Nancy A. Lapolla, EMS Director

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Angelo Salvucci, MD, EMS Medical Director