

**PARAMEDIC ASSESSMENT UNIT (PAU)****I. AUTHORITY:**

*Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.218, 1797.220 and 1798. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100168 and 100170.*

**II. APPLICATION:**

This policy defines an Orange County EMS Agency (OCEMS) approved paramedic assessment unit (PAU).

A PAU provides initial field paramedic assessment and interventions utilizing a minimum of one qualified paramedic. This is in contrast to a fully staffed OCEMS ALS unit which is staffed with two qualified paramedics as identified in OCEMS Policy # 700.00.

A PAU paramedic may escort (monitor and treat) patients during transport to an Emergency Receiving Center (ERC) in accordance with that paramedic's provider agency policy.

**III. PERSONNEL:**

PAU staffing shall be a minimum of one California licensed and OCEMS Accredited paramedic. This is in contrast to a fully staffed OCEMS ALS unit which is staffed with two qualified paramedics as identified in OCEMS Policy # 700.00.

**IV. EQUIPMENT:**

Each PAU shall be equipped with ALS supplies and equipment that meets the specifications described in OCEMS Policy #325.00 (ALS Unit Inventory). Controlled substances must be secured in locked compartments located on the fire apparatus when not being used for patient care.

**V. SERVICE OPERATION**

The electronic prehospital record (PCR) shall reflect all PAU paramedic assessments, interventions, and appropriate data elements with prompt posting (in Complete form) to the receiving ERC electronic dashboard.

OCEMS shall be notified of any implementation or downgrading of a PAU so that Orange County Communications, Base Hospitals, and ERCs can be notified to assure EMS system coordination.

**Approved:**

Carl H. Schultz, MD  
OCEMS Medical Director

Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN  
OCEMS Administrator

Original Date: 10/1992  
Reviewed Date(s): 4/1/2015; 11/28/2023  
Revised Date(s): 4/1/2015; 2/8/2016; 12/4/2023  
Effective Date: 4/1/2024