

Policy Title: Advanced Life Support Transport Provider Criteria		Policy Number 501
APPROVED		Date: January 3, 2023
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Medical Director:	Daniel Shepherd, M.D.	
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- I. PURPOSE: To define the criteria for ALS transport providers.
- II. POLICY: A Ventura County ALS Transport Provider shall meet the following criteria.
- III. AUTHORITY:
Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.218. California Code of Regulations, Section 100168.
- IV. PROCEDURE:
- A. **ALS Transport Provider Requirements**
- An Advanced Life Support Transport Provider, approved by Ventura County Emergency Medical Services (VC EMS), shall:
1. **ALS Unit Response Capability**

Provide medical services response on a continuous twenty-four (24) hours per day, basis 7 days a week. Any change in response capability of the ALS transport provider must be reported to VC EMS immediately or during the first day of office hours after the change in response capability. All requests for pre-hospital emergency care shall be met by ALS capable staff and vehicles.
Interfacility transfers are not considered emergency medical service unless the transfer is for an urgent life or limb threatening condition that cannot be medically cared for at the transferring facility. (Refer to Policy 605: Interfacility Transfers)
 2. **ALS Unit Coverage and Staffing**

All requests for pre-hospital emergency medical care shall be responded to with the following:

 - a. An ambulance that meets the requirements of Policy 504 and
 - b. 2 paramedics or 1 paramedic and 1 EMT ALS Assist per VC EMS Policies 318 and 306. At least one paramedic must be employed by the contracted ambulance transport agency.
 3. **ALS Patient Transport**

Provide transportation for ALS patients in an ALS unit.

4. ALS Communications

Provide two-way communication capability between the paramedics and the Base Hospital. All radio equipment shall comply with VC EMS Policy 905.

5. Satellite Phone

Each ALS Transport Provider shall have a minimum of one fully equipped and operational satellite phone. The device must be active with a satellite service provider and shall be readily deployable 24 hours a day for disaster communication purposes. The ALS Transport Provider will participate in occasional VC EMS sponsored satellite phone exercises. VC EMS will supply all providers with a current list of satellite phone contact numbers. Any changes to the satellite phone contact information shall immediately be forwarded to VC EMS.

6. ALS Drugs, Equipment and Supplies

Provide and maintain ALS drugs, solutions, medical equipment and supplies as specified by VC EMS Policy 504.

a. Ensure that security mechanisms and procedures are established for controlled substances and that mechanisms for investigation and mitigation of suspected tampering or diversion are established, in accordance with section 100168 of the California Code of Regulations

7. Contract with VC EMS

Have a contract with VC EMS to participate in the ALS program and to comply with all applicable State legislation and regulations, and local ordinances and policies and procedures.

8. Medical Direction

Assure that paramedics perform medical procedures only under specific orders of a physician or Ventura County authorized MICN except when operating under Prior to Base Hospital Contact and Communications Failure Policies.

9. Personnel Records

Keep a personnel file for each paramedic and EMT, which includes but not limited to licensure/certification, accreditation, employment status, and performance.

10. Certifications

Assure that each paramedic maintains current ACLS and either PALS, PEPP, or ENPC certification.

11. Quality Assurance

Assist the VC EMS, Pre-hospital Services Committee, and EMS Medical Director in data collection and evaluation of the VC EMS system.

12. Basic Life Support

Provide Basic Life Support services if ALS services are not indicated.

13. ALS Rates

Charge ALS rates, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

14. Documentation

Submit documentation according to VC EMS Policy 1000.

B. Advertising

1. ALS Transport Provider

No paramedic transport provider shall advertise itself as providing ALS services unless it does, in fact, routinely provide ALS services on a continuous twenty-four (24) hours per day and complies with the regulations of Ventura County Emergency Medical Services Agency.

2. ALS Responding Unit

No responding unit shall advertise itself as providing ALS services unless it does, in fact, provide ALS services twenty-four (24) hours per day and meets the requirements of VC EMS.

C. ALS Policy Development

Medical policies and procedures for the VC EMS system shall be developed by the Pre-hospital Services Committee for recommendation to and approval by the EMS Medical Director.

D. Contract Review

VC EMS shall review its contract with each ALS transport provider on an annual basis.

E. Denial, Suspension, or Revocation of Transport Provider Approval

VC EMS may deny, suspend, or revoke the approval of an ALS transport provider for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures, and regulation. Requests for review or appeal of such decisions shall be brought to the Pre-hospital Services Committee and the Board of Supervisors for appropriate action.

F. ALS Transport Provider Review Process, New Designation

Newly designated ALS providers shall undergo review for six (6) months according to VC EMS policies and procedures.