



# Health & Social Services Department

Donald R. Rowe, Director

Public Health - Mental Health - Public Guardian  
Adult and Child Services - Eligibility & Employment Services  
Substance Abuse Services

Public Health Division  
Thomas L. Charron, M.D., M.P.H.  
Health Officer  
Deputy Director Health and Social Service

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
717-B Missouri Avenue  
Fairfield CA 94531  
(707) 421-5585

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

POLICY MEMORANDUM #5550

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/1/92

APPROVED BY:

THOMAS L. CHARRON, M.D., H.P.H., SOLANO COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

REVIEWED BY:

STEVEN J. KAMINSKI, M.D., F.A.C.E.P., ASSISTANT EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

### SUBJECT: EMS COVERAGE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE, DIVISION 2.5, 1797.220

#### PURPOSE/POLICY:

To provide the procedures and requirements for authorization of EMS coverage for a special event.

#### I. DEFINITIONS:

Special Event: A pre-scheduled happening that, due to either the number of persons expected to be in attendance or the potential for injury during the activity, may require medical standby.

Permitted Provider: an ambulance service provider, permitted by Solano County EMS, that is based inside the county and responsible for ambulance coverage of a special event.

Non-permitted Provider: an ambulance service provider, non-permitted by Solano county EMS, that is based outside the county and is responsible for ambulance and/or first responder coverage of a special event.

Advanced Life Support (ALS): "Advanced Life Support" means special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care, including, but not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cardiac monitoring, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, administration of specified drugs and other medicinal preparations, and other specified techniques and procedures administered by authorized personnel under the direct supervision of a Base Hospital as part of a local EMS system at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital, during Interfacility transfer, and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital.

**Basic Life Support (BLS):** “Basic Life Support” means emergency first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures which, as a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to maintain life without invasive techniques until the victim may be transported or until Advanced Life Support is available.

## II. TYPES OF EMS COVERAGE

- A. **ALS Coverage** – All special events requiring standby ambulance service shall be capable of providing ALS services or provide an action plan approved by the EMS Office to have immediate ALS ground or air response if a BLS ambulance is posted at the event.
- B. **BLS Coverage** – A BLS ambulance shall be allowed for all special events that do not require an ambulance due to the requirements of the special event sponsor’s insurance carrier or the bylaws of the special event sponsor. The BLS unit shall be considered a first responder, and shall have a pre-arrival plan for ALS response as described in II.A above.
- C. **Transport of Patients from the Special Event** – The transport of any patient(s) from the scene of a special event shall be made by the ambulance provider assigned to the area encompassing the special event except as allowed by this policy.
- D. Non-permitted Ambulance Providers
  1. Non-permitted ALS providers wishing to provide special event coverage shall be required to obtain temporary accreditation of Advanced Life support(ALS) personnel who are not currently accredited within the County who shall document assessment and care on the standard medical records as required by the County.
  2. If an ALS ambulance is to be provided at the special event, the temporary permit of the ALS Ambulance service provider not currently approved within the County shall be required.
  3. Non-permitted providers that wish to provide BLS ambulance coverage of a special event within the County shall apply for temporary permit for special events coverage within the county.
  4. Non-permitted providers shall be required to pay a permit fee for the rights of County authorization of \$20.00/day to a maximum fee of \$100.00/year from date of issue. The fee may be waived if the service is an event that is considered to benefit Public Health, Welfare and/or Safety (at the discretion of the Medical Director or designee).

- E. Duration of Special Event Authorization/Accreditation - For the purpose of providing ALS or BLS medical coverage for special events, authorization/accreditation shall be effective only for the date(s) of the event while at the event site.
- F. Medical Control – There shall be medical control provided for all special events by the authorized Base Hospital for the service area.

III. PROCEDURE FOR ALS COVERAGE.

- A. The permitted ALS Provider shall, if applicable:
  - 1. Make all necessary arrangements with the appropriate Base Hospital for medical control.
  - 2. Make all necessary arrangements with the authorized dispatch center and ambulance company servicing the operating area which encompasses the special event for dispatch, communication and patient transport.
  - 3. Make all necessary arrangements with air ambulance transport (if applicable).
  - 4. Orient all ALS personnel covering the special event to the requirements listed above for the local ALS provider.
- B. The non-permitted ALS Provider shall:
  - 1. Be a provider in good standing within a county in the State of California.
  - 2. Complete and submit an application to the Solano County EMS Agency for approval at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the event. The Agency shall ensure that provider meets all local authorization requirements and shall notify the appropriate permitted ambulance providers (if the service elects to provide only BLS services) as soon as the special event provider is approved.
  - 3. Make all necessary arrangements prior to the special event with a local Base Hospital to provide medical control and have an acceptable plan for Base Hospital communication and patient documentation.
  - 4. Make all necessary arrangements, prior to the event, with the locally authorized ambulance service(s), both ground and air (if applicable), for patient transport.
  - 5. Make all necessary arrangements with the local designated dispatch center for all communication requirements.
  - 6. Ensure that all ALS personnel providing care for said provider possess, at a minimum, temporary ALS accreditation within the county in which the event is taking place, and have been oriented regarding all arrangements made with the Base Hospital and local transporting ambulance service(s). All personnel shall limit their scope of practice to that for which they are licensed or certified.
  - 7. Agree to have available, on the grounds of the special event:

- a. If not providing an ambulance, all appropriate ALS equipment as required by the Solano County EMS Agency, OR
  - b. If providing an ambulance, or a mobile intensive care unit (MICU), completely stocked according to the policies of the county in which it is based. This ambulance must also be currently licensed by the California Highway Patrol for operation in the county in which it is based pursuant to Article I, Section 2501 of the California Vehicle Code (a copy of this license must accompany the application).
  8. Agree to maintain documentation utilizing the Prehospital Care Report (PCR) approved for use by Solano County EMS for all patient contacts pursuant to Sections 100168 (a,6A) and 100169(e) of the California Code of Regulations. Copies of the PCR for all ALS patients, all BLS patients that are transported to a hospital, and all patients who refuse treatment must be forwarded to the Base Hospital for routine medical review. On all patient transports, the patient medical record copy of the PCR must either accompany the patient to the hospital or be forwarded to the receiving hospital within twenty-four (24) hours following the event.
  9. Pay application fees.
  10. A bond using any format approved by the County Auditor equal to 150% of the highest fine for a performance failure and the cost for a communication link with the CMED to coordinate ground and air ambulance response to the area of special coverage.
- C. ALS Staffing – For each ALS team, at least one member must be an EMT-P. Any ALS personnel not currently accredited within Solano County may receive temporary accreditation to work for an authorized ambulance provider for the purpose of supplying medical coverage for special events on completion of the following requirements:
1. Must possess current certification, in good standing, as an EMT-P in the State of California and possess local accreditation in a county within the State.
  2. Must complete, submit and have approved by the Solano County EMS Agency, an application for temporary accreditation.
  3. Must be oriented to the Base Hospital communication and patient transport arrangements for the special event.
  4. Pay temporary accreditation fees.
  5. Have knowledge of the best transport route to the closest appropriate receiving facility.
  6. Shall be assigned a “special event” unit name which utilizes the name of the special event during all communications.

#### IV. PROCEDURE FOR BLS COVERAGE

- A. The permitted BLS provider shall, if applicable;

1. Make all necessary arrangements with the appropriate Base Hospital for medical control.
  2. Make all necessary arrangements with the authorized dispatch center and ambulance company servicing the operating area which encompasses the special event for dispatch, communication and patient transport.
  3. Make all necessary arrangements with air ambulance transport (if applicable).
  4. Orient all BLS personnel covering the special event to the requirements listed above for the local ALS provider.
  5. Have, in writing, an action plan approved by the EMS Office, to obtain immediate ALS back-up when clinically appropriate.
- B. The non-permitted BLS provider shall:
1. Be a provider in good standing within a county in the State of California.
  2. Complete and submit an application to the Solano County EMS Agency for approval at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the event. The Agency shall ensure that provider meets all local authorization requirements and shall notify the local ambulance provider as soon as the special event provider is approved.
  3. Make all necessary arrangements prior to the special event with a local Base Hospital to provide medical control and have an acceptable plan for Base Hospital communication and patient documentation.
  4. Make all necessary arrangements, prior to the event, with the locally authorized ambulance service(s), both ground and air (if applicable), for patient transport.
  5. Make all necessary arrangements with the local designated dispatch center for all communication requirements.
  6. Ensure that all BLS personnel providing care for said provider possess current certification as EMT-1As, and have been oriented regarding all arrangements made with the Base Hospital and local transporting ambulance service(s).
  7. Agree to have available, on the grounds of the special event, all appropriate BLS equipment and staff as required by the California Highway Patrol for operation in the county in which it is based, pursuant to Article I, Section 2501 of the California Vehicle Code (a copy of this license must accompany the application).
  8. Agree to maintain documentation utilizing the Prehospital Care Report (PCR), approved for use within the County, of all patient contacts pursuant to Sections 10085(f) of the California Code of Regulations. Copies of the PCR for all BLS patients that are transported to a hospital, and all patients who refuse treatment must be forwarded to the Base Hospital for routine medical review. On all patient transports, the patient medical record copy of the PCR must

either accompany the patient to the hospital with the transporting ambulance, or be forwarded to the receiving hospital within twenty-four hours following the event.

9. Pay application fees.
  10. A bond using any format approved by the County Auditor equal to 150% of the highest fine for a performance failure and the cost for a communication link with the CMED to coordinate ground and air ambulance response to the area of special coverage.
- C. BLS Staffing – All BLS personnel (EMT-1A) shall:
1. Possess current certification, in good standing, as an EMT-1A in the State of California.
  2. Be oriented to the Base Hospital communication and patient transport arrangements for the special event.
  3. Have knowledge of the best transport route to the closest appropriate receiving facility.
  4. Be oriented regarding the appropriate method of contacting the designated dispatch center to coordinate the dispatch of the ALS ambulance company servicing the operating area encompassing the special event.
  5. Pay temporary accreditation fee.
  6. Shall be assigned a “special event” unit name which utilizes the name of the special event during all communications.

## V. MEDICAL CONTROL

- A. A Base Hospital within Solano County that is contacted by an authorized provider for the purpose of providing ALS or BLS medical control for a special event shall provide on-line and off-line medical control for the provider for said special event and will conduct a medical review of all ambulance transports and a medical review of patient contacts which occur during the event.
- B. The EMS Agency shall notify the Base Hospital upon the approval of the provider's application and provide the Base Hospital with a list of the EMT-Ps accredited for the ALS event(s).

## VI. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Ambulance service(s) providing ambulance coverage to the zone in which the special event is being held shall provide transport services for all patients requiring ambulance transport from the special event except under the following conditions:
  1. The ambulance service does not have an ambulance immediately available;

2. If the ETA of the responding ambulance is greater than the transport time to the closest appropriate facility;
  3. If, in the Base Hospital's opinion, a patient's condition warrants immediate transport.
- B. The Base Hospital may order transport via the ALS or BLS ambulance and/or EMS aircraft temporarily authorized for the special event coverage.
1. Prior to transferring any patient to another provider, the patient's condition and delay caused by transferring care should be considered. Such transfer of a patient shall require the order of the Base Hospital.
  2. Rendezvous Point – In the event that the Base Hospital should order transport by the special event provider, and it is in the best interest of the patient, if at all possible or practical a rendezvous point should be arranged to transfer transportation of the patient to an authorized transport provider to enable the ambulance covering the special event to return for coverage.

A rendezvous should especially be considered by the Base Hospital if the transporting special events ambulance is a BLS ambulance or if the transporting special events ambulance is an ALS ambulance and the transport time is geographically isolated and/or outside ambulance response to the special event poses a risk to Public Health/Welfare and/or Safety.

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