

Local Optional Scope of Practice**Management of Patients Encountered at International Ports of Entry with Medications and Equipment Outside Paramedic Scope of Practice****Date: 11/01/2024****Policy #7190**

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- I. **Purpose:** To optimize management of patients within Imperial and San Diego Counties who are encountered at international ports of entry with medications and equipment outside paramedic scope of practice.
 - II. **Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797. 220. California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1105(c).
 - III. **Definitions:**
PRN: pro re nata, i.e., “as the thing is needed”
 - IV. **Principles:**
 - A. Mexican authorities transfer patient care to Imperial and San Diego County 9-1-1 EMS clinicians when entering the United States.
 - B. When feasible, paramedics discontinue out of scope therapies and replace them with treatments within California scope of practice.
 - C. In situations where in-scope substitutions are not the optimal patient-centered therapies, Base Hospital Physicians provide direct medical oversight for use of optional scope medications and equipment.
 - V. **Procedure:**
 - A. Imperial and San Diego County paramedics perform initial patient assessment, including identification of PRN intravenous medications and devices in use, e.g., abdominal surgical drains and ventilators.
 - B. Paramedics make immediate Base Hospital contact for consultation with the Base Hospital Physician if medications or equipment are not within California scope of practice.
 - 1. For patients on ventilators, paramedics disconnect and provide manual ventilation.
 - 2. Upon patient transfer from the Mexican ambulance, reconnect existing equipment in the same configuration (Appendix).
 - 3. Paramedics discontinue out of scope medications and replace them with medications within scope of practice (e.g., midazolam as a substitute for dexmedetomidine).
 - i. If no appropriate in-scope alternative is available, the Base Hospital Physician may authorize continuation, without adjustment, of any of the listed medications (Appendix).
 - 4. If the patient’s clinical condition deteriorates, paramedics contact the Base Hospital Physician for treatment adjustments, including treatment discontinuation.

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- C. **In Imperial County, for patients likely to deteriorate if existing interventions are discontinued.** If the patient is on two or more intravenous medications, consider transfer to a critical care treatment team for transport out of county.
1. Base Hospital Physician consultation is required for consideration of out of county transport. Indications include:
 - i. Recent medical complaint including a STEMI, stroke, traumatic injury, or burn that would benefit from a specialty care team
 - ii. Recent surgical interventions outside of the scope of local specialists, including but not limited to chest tubes, surgical drains, airway, intraabdominal, or intrathoracic interventions
 - iii. If the main etiology for the patient's clinical status is from specialties including, but not limited to, advanced malignancy; ear, nose and throat surgery; cardiothoracic surgery; or plastic surgery.

VI. Quality Assurance

100% of these calls shall be reviewed through the quality assurance process.

APPROVED:

SIGNATURE ON FILE – 11/01/24

EMS Medical Director

Local Optional Scope of Practice**Management of Patients Encountered at International Ports of Entry with Medications and Equipment Outside Paramedic Scope of Practice****Date: 11/01/2024****Policy #7190****APPENDIX****MEDICATIONS AND EQUIPMENT ENCOUNTERED
AT INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF ENTRY (PARTIAL LIST)**

MEDICATIONS	EQUIPMENT
Sedatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propofol • Midazolam* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoracostomy Tubes • Nasogastric or Orogastic Tubes • Pericardiocentesis Tubes • IV Pumps
Analgesics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fentanyl* • Morphine* • Ketamine* 	
Vasopressors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epinephrine/Adrenaline* • Dopamine* 	
Vasodilator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitroglycerin* 	
Antibiotics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancomycin • Piperacillin / Tazobactam • Cefepime • Linezolid • Meropenem, Imipenem 	
Anticoagulants/Antifibrinolytics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heparin • Tranexamic Acid* 	
Blood Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Blood • Red Blood Cells • Platelets • Fresh Frozen Plasma • Cryoprecipitate 	
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxytocin • Magnesium* • Epoprostenol • Treprostinil • Prostaglandin E1 	

* These medications are within California paramedic scope of practice and therefore do not require LOSOP authority. They are included here for situational awareness.