



EMT TRANSPORT OF EMERGENT PATIENTS **PUBLIC COMMENT DRAFT**

POLICY NO: 4010

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AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 & 1798.6. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100170

4010.1 POLICY AND INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for EMTs making transport decisions for emergent patients in their care. While in general patients meeting criteria for ALS transport should be turned over to ALS personnel, in certain circumstances, the rapid BLS transport of an emergent patient is preferable to waiting for ALS response or intercept.

4010.2 BLS IMMEDIATE TRANSPORT

EMTs with emergent patients in their care must determine the ETA of ALS unit to their location. In cases where the time to the arrival of an ALS unit to the scene is longer than the combination of patient extrication and transport time to an appropriate ED, the BLS unit should transport the patient without delay. If EMT personnel determine immediate transport is appropriate, any ALS response to the scene should not be canceled until the BLS ambulance is enroute to the closest hospital.

4010.3 ALS INTERCEPT

In some circumstances, EMTs should rendezvous with an ALS ambulance or first responders to access ALS care.

Rendezvous Procedure:

1. EMTs shall contact the dispatch center as soon as possible to request an ALS rendezvous if an ALS ambulance is not responding to the incident., The request for ALS intercept should be made as early as possible.
2. The BLS transporting unit shall not wait at the scene for a rendezvous.
3. Once a rendezvous location has been identified and if the BLS transporting unit arrives to that location prior to the ALS ambulance, the BLS transporting unit shall not wait at the initial rendezvous site if there is extended wait time for the ALS ambulance arrival. If the ALS rendezvous unit has not arrived at the rendezvous site, the BLS transporting unit should proceed to the next best rendezvous location or to the closest hospital without delay.
4. The EMS dispatch center will monitor and support communication for the rendezvous; however, EMS units may also communicate directly to provide a report on patient condition and/or additional rendezvous information if appropriate.
5. When the rendezvous occurs, paramedic personnel shall join the patient in the back of the BLS ambulance transporting the patient. Good pre-rendezvous communications are essential to allow the paramedics to prepare the proper equipment for transfer into the transporting unit.