

General Policy and Procedure

Emergency Response and Utilization of Advanced Life Support, BLS and MFR Units

In the Washtenaw/Livingston Medical Control Authority all requests for emergency care will be responded to by a system approved ALS transporting service. This standard for response is supplemented by a system of non-transporting emergency response services which may provide service at the MFR, BLS and ALS levels. The purpose of this policy is to describe the standards for system response and describe the circumstances where alternatives may be used.

Procedure:

A. Response by ALS units

1. Upon receipt of an emergency ambulance request at a pre-hospital location, the Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider who is responsible for that particular area will be contacted for response of an ALS unit. Transport of emergency patients will be made only by ALS units, unless Part B-4 (below) applies.
2. If requested, approved ALS agencies within the MCA must respond to an emergency request anywhere within the MCA providing the requested agency has available resources.
3. If more than one agency is authorized to provide advanced life support in an area where a medical emergency exists, and if the requested ALS agency anticipates a response time of greater than ten (10) minutes, the requested agency will determine if a closer ALS ambulance is available from another approved agency and if so, dispatch it to the scene of the emergency. "Emergency" means a condition or situation in which an individual declares a need for immediate medical attention for any individual, or where that need is declared by emergency medical services personnel or a public safety official. PA 378 of 1978.
4. This section is not meant to inhibit the dispatch and response of any level first responders or basic life support units operated by system approved services which may be closer to the scene.

B. BLS Response - Decision to Load and Transport

1. BLS units arriving at the scene will initiate BLS procedures.
2. Upon completion of the IPS and initiation of BLS and prior to loading, the unit on the scene will determine the estimated time of arrival of the ALS unit.
3. If the ALS unit is within ten (10) minutes of the scene, BLS procedures will continue at the scene until the arrival of the ALS unit. During this interim period, the patient should be prepared for transport.
4. If the ALS unit is greater than ten (10) minutes from the scene, the BLS unit should prepare and begin transport of the patient to the nearest hospital facility, in accordance with Transport Protocol 1-01. A rendezvous should be considered in accordance with guidelines in Section C of this protocol.

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C. Rendezvous with ALS Units

1. If a transport has begun by a BLS unit in accordance with Section B of this protocol, a rendezvous with an ALS unit should be attempted, if it will occur at a point which is greater than five (5) minutes from the receiving hospital. For patients in cardiac arrest being transported by BLS, ALS intercept is indicated at any point during the transport.

D. Transport by Non-Transport Units

Non-Transport Units are prohibited from transporting non-emergency patients, and may transport emergency patients only under Section 20939 of the Public Health Code which states:

"If an ambulance operation is unable to respond to an emergency patient within a reasonable time, this part does not prohibit the spontaneous use of a vehicle under exceptional circumstances to provide, without charge or fee and as a humane service, transportation for the emergency patient. Emergency medical personnel who transport or who make the decision to transport an emergency patient under this section shall file a written report describing the incident with the medical control authority".

An "emergency patient" is defined by Section 20904 (8) of the Public Health Code as," an individual whose physical or mental condition is such that the individual is, or may reasonably be suspected or known to be, in imminent danger of loss of life or of significant health impairment".

E. Option

1. EMS units may contact Medical Control for assistance with any situation as necessary.