

POLICY #207: ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH MEDIC

I. PURPOSE

- A. To establish policy for the use of paramedics in response to a proclaimed State of Emergency and specifically defined public health emergency

II. SCOPE

- A. The advanced life support (ALS) Public Health Medic is an optional prehospital ALS program administered by the County of San Luis Obispo (SLO) Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS Agency) through authorized County of SLO ALS providers. The program functions as a temporary extension to State and County ALS rules, regulations, policies, and protocols, and operates under medical control and authority of the EMS Agency Medical Director.

III. POLICY

- A. California licensed and County of SLO accredited paramedics may use this policy while providing services in the event of a proclaimed and specifically defined public health emergency.
- B. This policy is operative only during the duration of a specifically defined public health emergency declared by the State and/or the County of SLO Health Officer in response to an unusual event, and when the State EMS Authority has authorized skills and procedures outside of the normal paramedic scope of practice. Except for the limited duration of the public health emergency, this policy must not be construed, interpreted or allowed to replace or modify in any way the local scope of practice.
- C. Paramedic personnel may utilize authorized skills and procedures outside of the normal paramedic scope of practice only as indicated in this policy and in any addendum to this policy that is specific to a declared and specifically defined public health emergency.
- D. An ALS provider desiring to create a Public Health Medic program to use while assisting in the event of a declared and specifically defined public health emergency, must receive approval as outlined in the policy prior to its paramedics performing any skills or procedures specially authorized by the EMS Agency Medical Director under this policy.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Upon the declaration of a specifically defined public health emergency and with approval by the State EMS Authority of authorized skills and procedures outside of the normal paramedic scope of practice specifically for use in that emergency, the EMS Agency may issue an addendum to this policy, stating the skills and

procedures that are authorized by the EMS Agency Medical Director, and the conditions and duration of such authorization.

- B. The EMS Agency Medical Director must approve all specific skills or procedures added to the local Scope of Practice under this policy.
 - C. Under this policy, expansion of the local scope of practice is temporary. The EMS Agency Medical Director and County Public Health Officer using guidelines issued by the State EMS Authority will determine the duration of such expansion.
 - D. The EMS Agency Medical Director may require that paramedics intending to use any of the specific skills or procedures added to the local scope of practice under this policy receive additional training before utilizing any of those skills or procedures, and such training will comply with EMS Agency requirements.
 - E. An ALS provider desiring to create a Public Health Medic program while assisting in the event of a declared and specifically defined public health emergency must be an existing ALS provider authorized by the EMS Agency, and must make a written application to the EMS Agency that includes the following:
 - 1. The scope and duration of the program.
 - 2. A plan for training personnel in the expanded skills and procedures, and for documentation of such training.
 - 3. A plan for documentation of all services and procedures performed under the program.
 - 4. An outline of the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement mechanism to be used for the duration of the program.
 - F. Upon approval by the EMS Agency of an ALS provider's Public Health Medic program, the ALS provider must:
 - 1. Document the program's ongoing training, including course content, class rosters, and course completion records.
 - 2. Maintain records and reports according to these policies.
 - 3. Submit reports to the EMS Agency containing information and data defined by the EMS Agency Medical Director and/or the County Public Health Officer when and as requested by the EMS Agency Medical Director and/or County Public Health Officer, and an after action report at the conclusion of the declared emergency.
 - G. The EMS Agency, with good cause, may terminate an ALS Public Health Medic program at any time for non-compliance with these policies and procedures.
- V. AUTHORITY/REFERENCE
- Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.200 et seq, and 1798(a)
 - California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Social Security, Division 9
 - County of San Luis Obispo Surge SOP