



Policy 604: Attendant Level of Care in ALS/BLS Combination units

Revision 5/22/18
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- IV. Purpose
 - A. To clarify when an EMT vs. a paramedic can provide direct patient care during EMS calls when responding in a paramedic/EMT configured units.
- II. Background
 - A. EMS responses encompass a wide range of patient acuity (see Policy 621 Patient Acuity Guidelines).
 - B. Many patients can be safely cared for by an EMT with a paramedic who is immediately available in the same vehicle.
 - C. Fire and ambulance crews need the flexibility to manage workload by appropriately sharing the duties of all phases of patient care, including hospital handoff and documentation.
- III. General Criteria for Determining Appropriate Level of Care
 - A. Fire and ambulance paramedics and EMTs are authorized to use any combination of history, primary and secondary surveys, first responder activity, vital signs, experience, and judgement to determine a patient's acuity level.
 - B. Patients with acuity levels of 1, 2 or 3 require paramedic level management throughout all phases of prehospital care, including during transport to the appropriate destination. This rule may be waived in the event of an MCI.
 - C. Patients with acuity levels of 4 or 5 may be managed by EMTs on scene and during transport provided the following conditions have been met:
 - 1. Each level 4 or 5 patient has been assessed by a paramedic and does not require, or will likely not require, ALS care at any point during the prehospital phase. Exception: a saline locked IV placed by the paramedic is not considered an "ALS" patient.
 - 2. Each fire or ambulance crewmember agrees that a Level 4 or 5 designation is appropriate.
- IV. Changes in Patient Acuity
 - A. In instances where patients experience a worsening in their status, direct care will revert to either the first response or transport paramedic.
- V. Overall Patient Care Responsibility
 - A. While it is appropriate for EMTs to directly manage acuity level 4 and 5 patients, paramedics on scene and during transport will still maintain overall patient care responsibility and oversight.