

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

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USE OF STANDARD AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES TREATMENT PROTOCOLS

I. PURPOSE

- A. To develop a standard approach to utilizing the San Francisco EMS Agency Standard Treatment Protocols.
- B. To develop a standard approach for utilizing the San Francisco EMS Agency Treatment Protocols for Special Circumstances.

II. AUTHORITY

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797 et seq. and 1798 et seq.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- C. San Francisco Health Code, Section 901

III. POLICY

1. STANDARD CIRCUMSTANCES

- A. Prehospital personnel shall initiate BLS measures and then proceed to ALS measures as dictated by the patient assessment and scope of practice.
- B. Prehospital personnel shall utilize good clinical judgment and consider additional resources as needed.
- C. BLS personnel shall request an ALS response unit to the scene or rapidly transport the patient to the nearest open Receiving Hospital according to EMS Agency Policy.
- D. Routine Medical Care should be provided to every patient as guided by assessment of the scene and the patient's condition.
- E. When situations and/or patient conditions are not addressed by a Standard Treatment Protocol, prehospital personnel shall utilize other pre-existing standard life support guidelines, including PHTLS, ACLS, PALS and good medical judgment. Paramedics must make Base Hospital Physician contact for deviations from EMS Agency treatment protocols and/or policies.
- F. The Base Hospital Physician provides on-line medical consultation according to EMS Agency Policy.

G. ALS Optional Scope practices shall be reviewed at the EMS Agency Clinical Advisory Committee.

2. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

H. Prehospital personnel shall consider the use of a Treatment Protocol for Special Circumstances only if the indications for treatment are met AND the appropriate authority has approved its use.

I. The authority to initiate care according to the “Treatment Protocols for Special Circumstances” is cited in the individual protocols. This authority must come from the San Francisco Emergency Medical Director or his/her designee

1. The EMS Agency Duty Officer is the primary point of contact for the EMS System and will notify the providers that approval to initiate using the Special Treatment Protocols has been obtained from the EMS Agency Medical Director or his/her designee.

J. Prehospital personnel shall contact the Base Hospital Physician when the protocol states that BHMD approval is required, for clinical consultation, and/or for deviation from clinical care described in the treatment protocols.

K. Routine Medical Care (RMC), Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) are as defined in this Policy: Use of Standard and Special Treatment Protocols, unless otherwise defined in the individual protocol within this section.

L. EMS prehospital and Base Hospital personnel shall maintain proficiency in the use of all EMS Agency Treatment Protocols for Special Circumstances.