



San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency

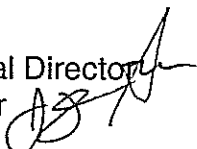


<http://www.sjgov.org/ems>

Policy Memorandum No. 2011-01

DATE: February 11, 2011

TO: Advance Life Support (ALS) Personnel
Base Hospital Personnel

FROM: Richard N. Buys, M.D., Medical Director
Dan Burch, EMS Administrator 

SUBJ.: EMS Policy No. 5734, ALS Drowning/Near Drowning

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The purpose of this Policy Memorandum is to provide clarity and direction regarding potential conflicts between EMS Policy No. 5734 ALS Drowning/Near Drowning and EMS Policy No 5103, Determination of Death.

Effective immediately, EMS Agency Policy No. 5734, ALS Drowning/Near Drowning is rescinded. Drowning/near drowning patients should be treated following the appropriate ALS treatment protocol based on the findings of their patient assessment.

EMS Policy No. 5103, Determination of Death is being modified to include specific criteria for EMS personnel to follow in determining death in drowning/near drowning incidents. Effectively immediately all of the following shall apply:

- 1) Obvious death shall include a patient exhibiting apnea and pulselessness that has been submerged underwater for greater than sixty (60) minutes.
- 2) EMS personnel shall initiate rapid transport and continue resuscitation when the patient was submerged underwater for less than thirty (30) minutes.
- 3) In all other drowning/near drowning situations if the patient remains pulseless and apneic following of fifteen (15) minutes and five (5) rounds of resuscitative measures ALS personnel shall contact the base hospital and request permission to discontinue resuscitative measures from the on-duty Base Hospital Physician (BHP).

Questions regarding Policy Memo No. 2011-01 should be directed to Kevin O'Loughlin, Sr., MICP, EMS Specialist at (209) 468-6818 or by email at koloughlin@sjgov.org