EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2022-03

DATE: March 31, 2022

TO: All Prehospital Personnel

FROM: Dr. Katherine Shafer, EMS Medical Director

SUBJ.: Transfer of Prehospital Patient Care from ALS Non-transport to BLS Staffed Ambulance

The purpose of this policy memorandum is to clarify that a non-transport paramedic may transfer patient care to an emergency ambulance service provider basic life support (BLS) staffed ambulance emergency medical technician (EMT) when the patient does not require advanced life support (ALS) care as outlined in this memorandum.

San Joaquin County EMS Agency (SJCEMSA) has established policies such as, EMS Policy No. 3202, Medical Priority Dispatch System Use and Assignments and EMS Policy Memorandum 2018-02, Continued Integration of BLS Ambulances into the EMS System, that authorize emergency ambulance service providers to use basic life support (BLS) staffed ambulances in the EMS System. SJCEMSA understands that on occasion non-transport ALS personnel have the highest level of patient care responsibility on scene.

When this occurs a non-transport paramedic should transfer prehospital patient care responsibility to an emergency ambulance EMT for patient transport to a receiving hospital when after patient assessment:

1. The non-transport paramedic determines the patient does not require ongoing ALS care or observation; and
2. The patient has not received an ALS scope of practice medication and/or intervention.

When a non-transport paramedic attends a patient during transport to a receiving hospital, the attending non-transport paramedic shall remain with the patient until the attending non-transport paramedic transfers patient care to emergency department (ED) personnel, and places the patient on an ED gurney, chair, or waiting room.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, contact Matthew Esposito, EMS Prehospital Care Coordinator at (209) 468-6818.