

Standard Operating Procedures Manual

City of Poquoson Fire and Rescue



City of Poquoson Fire and Rescue

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EMS OPERATIONS

SOP#: EMS 5.00

Title: Downgrading ALS calls to
BLS calls

Effective Date: 11/30/2008

Revised Date: 11/30/2008

Douglas J. Holloway
Fire Chief's Signature

James R. Wheeler
City Manager's Signature

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DOWNGRADING ALS CALLS TO BLS CALLS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide reasonable assurance that advanced life support is provided to all patients whose conditions warrant it. Further, including the medical control physician in downgrade decisions protects department personnel from liability.

This SOP is not all-inclusive and cannot encompass all situations that may be encountered.

II. APPLICABILITY

All career and volunteer personnel

III. DEFINITION

ALS Calls:

- Cardiac or respiratory arrest
- Near drowning
- Chest pain/palpitations
- Difficulty in breathing
- All Electrical Burns

- Patients with altered levels of consciousness
- Cerebral vascular accident (stroke)
- Imminent or post childbirth, including miscarriages or complications relating to the pregnancy or labor
- Shootings
- Hypertension
- Allergic Reaction
- Stabbings
- Diabetic Emergencies
- Repeated or extended seizing, first time seizure, febrile seizure
- Excessive body temperatures with convulsions or deliriums including heat related disorders (exhaustion or heat stroke)
- Possible DOA
- Auto accident described as:
 - Car/pedestrian
 - Car/bicycle
 - Motorcycle and/or car/motorcycle
 - Serious in nature (car rolled over, person trapped, etc.)
- Any child under 18 months exhibiting any of the above and/or:
 - Dehydration
 - Hypothermia/hyperthermia
 - Poor muscle tone

VI. PROCEDURES

When a medic unit is dispatched to any of the above calls, the ALS provider on the scene will assess the patient or patients and determine what, if any, advanced life support procedures are needed. If the patient appears to require no advanced life support, the ALS provider may contact medical control, give a presentation, and request to downgrade to basic life support. If permission is received, this shall be noted on the patient care report along with the Online Physician's name.