



## ALS TO BLS TRANSITION OF CARE

**Effective:** January 1, 2025  
**Replaces:** March 6, 2023

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this protocol is to provide patient eligibility guidelines for the transition of care from Advanced Life Support (ALS) to Basic Life Support (BLS) under any application. A patient may not be transitioned to BLS care or transport, if the patient meets any of the exclusion criteria listed below.

### 2. Standard Dispatch Orders (SDOs) and Mass Casualty Incident Plan (MCI) Interface

- 2.1. This protocol is applicable but not limited to the below SDOs. During activation of the following SDOs, there can be an increased number of BLS ambulances in the 911 system.
  - 2.1.1. SDO 3: Dispatch BLS Ambulances to "ALPHA" and/or "OMEGA" EMS Events
  - 2.1.2. SDO 10: Place all available 911 and non-911 ambulances in service.
  - 2.1.3. SDO 13: Dispatch BLS ambulances to "Alpha", "Bravo" and/or "Code 2" EMS events.
- 2.2. Activation of the Mass Casualty Incident Plan (Reference 811) and its prescribed treatment plans will supersede the care criteria outlined in this protocol.

### 3. Adult Patient Primary and or Secondary Provider Impression Ineligibility

- 3.1. If at any point during the ALS assessment or in the presence of an ALS scene provider the patient exhibits any of the following conditions, the patient is no longer considered eligible for ALS to BLS transition and care must be provided by an ALS provider.
  - 3.1.1. Foreign body airway obstructions.
  - 3.1.2. Abdominal pain (associated with fever, syncope, severe pain, possible ectopic pregnancy).
  - 3.1.3. Acute cardiac dysrhythmias.
  - 3.1.4. Suspected cardiac chest pain.
  - 3.1.5. Overdose or poisoning.
  - 3.1.6. Seizures or postictal.
  - 3.1.7. Suspected sepsis.
  - 3.1.8. Hypoglycemia (less than 60 mg/dl)
  - 3.1.9. Altered mental status (altered for the patient).
  - 3.1.10. Any specialty care alert (Trauma meeting "Red Criteria", Stroke, STEMI, Burns, Advanced Pediatrics).
  - 3.1.11. Water related submersion incidents.
  - 3.1.12. Pregnancy related complications.
  - 3.1.13. Need for ALS medication administration.
- 3.2. If patient does not have any of the following conditions proceed to section 4.



#### 4. Adult Patient Initial Vital Sign Ineligibility

- 4.1. If at any point during the ALS assessment or in the presence of an ALS scene provider the patient exhibits any of the following vital sign parameters, the patient is no longer considered eligible for ALS to BLS transition.
  - 4.1.1. Respiratory rate equal or less than 10 breaths a minute.
  - 4.1.2. Respiratory rate greater than 24 breaths a minute.
  - 4.1.3. Pulse oximetry (SpO<sub>2</sub>) of 93% saturation or below with supplemental oxygen.
  - 4.1.4. Systolic blood pressure less than 90 mmHg.
  - 4.1.5. Sustained blood pressure exceeds 180/100 mmHg, (either systolic or diastolic).
  - 4.1.6. Pulse rate is less than 60 beats per minute and symptomatic.
  - 4.1.7. Sustained pulse rate greater than 120 beats per minute.
  - 4.1.8. Blood Glucose (BGL) is greater than 400 mg/dl.
  - 4.1.9. Temperature is less than 95°F
  - 4.1.10. Temperature is greater than 103.0°F
- 4.2. If the patient meets any of the criteria in section 3 or section 4, the patient can not be transitioned to a BLS scene provider and/or BLS ambulance without the Paramedic maintaining patient care.

#### 5. Special Considerations Pediatric

- 5.1. If at any point during the ALS assessment of a pediatric patient or in the presence of an ALS scene provider the patient exhibits any of the following conditions, the patient is no longer considered eligible for ALS to BLS transition and care must be provided by an ALS provider.
  - 5.1.1. Acute cardiac dysrhythmias.
  - 5.1.2. Evidence of poor perfusion and/or cyanosis.
  - 5.1.3. Severe respiratory distress.
  - 5.1.4. Persistent altered mental status (altered for the patient).
  - 5.1.5. Status epilepticus
  - 5.1.6. Brief Resolved Unexplained Event (BRUE)
  - 5.1.7. Any other abnormal findings on the pediatric assessment triangle.

#### 6. Special Considerations

- 6.1. If all scene responders are BLS providers and the patient meets any of the criteria from section 3 or section 4, an ALS resource shall be requested to the scene unless the patients meets the emergent criteria from **(Policy 607)** under section III, then the BLS unit may transport the patient to the closest, most appropriate emergency department with red lights and sirens (RLS), if the transport time to the hospital is less than fifteen (15) minutes.
- 6.2. If the patient is alert and expected to remain stable, the patient may be transported by BLS ambulance if:
  - 6.2.1. If ondansetron has been administered for nausea/vomiting
  - 6.2.2. If IV has been established and set to TKO or converted to saline lock