



# San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency



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

Mailing Address  
PO Box 220  
French Camp, CA 95231

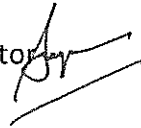
Health Care Services Complex  
Benton Hall  
500 W. Hospital Rd.  
French Camp, CA 95231

Phone Number  
(209) 468-6818

Fax Number  
(209) 468-6725

## Memorandum

TO: Accredited San Joaquin County Paramedics and MICNs  
ALS and BLS Service Providers  
Paramedic Training Programs  
Receiving Hospitals

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

DATE: August 26, 2010

SUBJ.: Stockton Fire Department's Transition to BLS

The agreement between San Joaquin County and the City of Stockton authorizing the Stockton Fire Department (SFD) to provide advanced life support (ALS) services expires on September 1, 2010, at 0700. To allow for continuity in patient care the EMS Agency will authorize SFD paramedics that have initiated patient care prior to 0700 to continue to provide ALS care until patient care is transferred to emergency department personnel or to the transport paramedic. The EMS Agency anticipates the Stockton Fire Department's cooperation in a smooth transition to basic life support (BLS) service.

In order to be compliant with statute and properly transition to BLS service the Stockton Fire Department is required to discontinue ALS service and remove all ALS medications and equipment from service with the exception of cardiac monitor defibrillators operating in automatic mode. The EMS Agency shall authorize SFD to continue to use its existing cardiac monitor defibrillators until July 1, 2011, to allow SFD sufficient time to budget and purchase BLS approved automatic external defibrillators (AED). In addition per the requirements of Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.180, the Stockton Fire Department is required to remove all ALS and/or paramedic advertising or information dissemination from all equipment, vehicles, uniforms, stationary, and any other item(s) which may be seen by the public.

Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.178 states that "no person or organization shall provide advanced life support or limited advanced life support unless that person or organization is an authorized part of the emergency medical services system of the local EMS agency." Except as noted above, licensed paramedics employed by the City of Stockton are not authorized to provide ALS services for the City of Stockton after September 1, 2010, at 0700 hours. SFD paramedics are eligible and expected to provide BLS service and to assist the ALS transport provider in accordance with EMS Agency policies and treatment protocols.

Please be advised that providing ALS service with an unauthorized provider is a violation of Health and Safety Code §1798.200 (c) 10: "Functioning outside the supervision of medical control in the field care system operating at the local level, except as authorized by any other license or certification." Any person violating this section is subject to disciplinary action up to and including revocation of their paramedic license.

It remains the County's desire that the City of Stockton will change course and make the decisions necessary to remain eligible to provide ALS service as an integrated component of the County's EMS system.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin O'Loughlin at (209) 468-6818 or by email at [koloughlin@sjgov.org](mailto:koloughlin@sjgov.org).

cc: Dan Smiley, Chief Deputy Director, EMS Authority