



# San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency



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

## EMS POLICY UPDATE MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 12, 2012

TO: Advanced Life Support (ALS) Providers  
Paramedic Training Programs  
Hospital Liaisons  
Physician Liaisons

FROM: Rick Jones, MPA

SUBJ.: 2012 Policy Updates

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The purpose of this memo is to clarify the process that will be used to roll out the recently updated and new policies made effective January 1, 2012.

## TRAINING MODULE

The CQI Council is developing a training module to be used by each provider (agency/company) that highlights the changes to the ALS treatment protocols and other medical control policies adopted on January 1, 2012. This training module will include a review of the revisions to the policies and the rationale behind those changes. The ALS providers and the base hospital are planning to have all personnel oriented to the policies by April 1, 2012. In the meantime paramedics and MICNs are responsible know and follow the EMS policies currently in effect, including those adopted on January 1, 2012. Deviations from policy will be addressed through the provider and/or base hospital CQI process. EMS personnel are encouraged to contact their CQI representative with questions or concerns.

## EZ-IO and Glucagon

The EMS Agency is phasing out the use of glucagon in favor of the administration of dextrose via IV or EZ-IO. Effective January 1, 2012, the EMS Agency removed glucagon from the ALS treatment protocols. However, several ALS providers are not expected to have 100% EZ-IO availability until July 1, 2012. If EZ-IO is unavailable as an alternative to IV access paramedics may continue to administer glucagon when appropriate per the previous 2010 version of the following EMS policies No. 5733 ALS Poisoning/Overdose, No. 5751 ALS Altered Level of Consciousness, No. 5753 ALS Seizures, and No. 5829 ALS Pediatric Altered Level of Consciousness. Additionally, glucagon remains within the approved paramedic scope of practice and may be carried on ALS units as an optional medication and administered by base physician order in the field or transferring physician order during inter-facility transports.