ASSESSMENT UNIT SERVICE AUTHORIZATION/REACTIVATION

I. AUTHORITY:

Health & Safety Code 1797.178 and 1797.204.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes a paramedic assessment (PA) unit program concept and the criteria for an Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) approved service provider agency to request authorization to implement a PA unit service within its jurisdiction.

The utilization of currently certified and accredited EMT-P personnel on OCEMS authorized PA units, in addition to authorized advanced life support (ALS) units, is intended to maximize resources to improve prehospital patient care. Primary advantages include:

- The highest medically qualified level of prehospital personnel would be available and responsible for patient assessment.
- The highest medically qualified level of prehospital first responder personnel would be responsible for determining when or how to modify the initial response of the ALS unit dispatched to the incident.

III. ALS INTERVENTION:

The first responder is authorized to utilize ALS standing orders prior to base hospital (BH) contact.

IV. CRITERIA:

The EMT-P service provider agency seeking PA unit service authorization shall submit a written application to the OCEMS which shall minimally include:

A. Identification, location, and a sample month's response times of the ALS unit assigned to the geographical area.

B. Identification, location, and a sample month's response times of the proposed PA unit(s).

C. Written plan and time frame for implementation of the PA unit service.

D. Agreement to maintain a solution inventory, BLS and ALS medical equipment, supplies and record keeping, as specified by OCEMS policy.

E. Agreement to meet all OCEMS documentation and reporting requirements for PA unit EMT-P patient contact.

F. Written policies and procedures covering the staffing and operations of the PA unit service.

G. Geographical location and boundaries of the proposed PA unit service. The location and address and telephone number(s) of the PA unit and station.

ITALICIZED TEXT IDENTIFIES QUOTATIONS FROM AN AUTHORITY OUTSIDE THE OCEMS.

H. An adopted policy indicating provider agency commitment that the incorporation of a PA unit into the agency's service shall not supplant an established or proposed two paramedic ALS unit, nor shall an ALS unit be downgraded or removed to accommodate a PA unit if such action is detrimental to patient care or System function. Consideration of a request for removal or downgrade of an ALS unit to accommodate a PA unit which is not detrimental to patient care or System function, will be made by the OCEMS in consultation with affected service provider agencies, on a case-by-case basis.

I. Written agreement to comply with all applicable policies including policy 330.10.

V. PA UNIT ASSIGNMENT TO BASE HOSPITAL:

Each PA unit shall be assigned to an ALS unit for resupply support and the ALS unit and the PA unit shall accordingly be assigned to the same BH.

The OCEMS will advise all BHs in writing of each PA unit's assignment.

IV. PROCESSING OF APPLICATION:

Upon receipt of a written application from an authorized EMT-P service provider agency, the OCEMS Agency shall:

- Review the application for completeness and accuracy.
- Request that the Medical Director review the staff's recommendation regarding the application and authorize or deny the EMT service provider agency's application for PA unit service.
- Inform the applying EMT-P service provider agency in writing of the Medical Director's decision to authorize or deny its application for implementation of PA unit service.