



I. AUTHORITY:

*Health and Safety (HS) Code 1797.178: No person or organization shall provide advanced life support or limited advance life support unless that person or organization is an authorized part of the emergency medical services system of the local EMS agency.*

*HS 1797.204. The local EMS agency shall plan, implement, and evaluate the emergency medical services system.*

II. APPLICATION:

This policy defines the process for an Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) approved 911-ALS service provider agency to request authorization to add a new advanced life support (ALS) unit, add a new Paramedic Assessment Unit, upgrade a PAU to an ALS unit or to reactivate a previously approved but inactive PAU or ALS unit to meet increased medical service requests.

III. NEW ALS UNIT or PAU CRITERIA:

An approved/designated 911-ALS service provider agency seeking PAU/ALS unit approval shall submit a written application to the OCEMS which shall include:

- A. Justification for an additional PAU or ALS unit(s)
- B. Description of the geographical location and boundaries for the proposed service.
- C. Justification for variances (if any) from the applicant's plan for adhering to the Board of Supervisors Resolution 79-240: One unit for every 64,000 population; or one unit per 16 square miles; or an average of five minutes or less response time; or adjacent units are at or above 300 total responses/month (Policy 700.00).
- D. A workload analysis of the impact on contiguous PAUs or ALS units.
- E. Proposed time frame for implementation.
- F. Commitment to utilize and maintain telecommunications as specified by the OCEMS.
- G. Commitment to maintain a drug and solution inventory and basic and ALS medical equipment and supplies as specified by the OCEMS.
- H. Training needs for meeting OCEMS staffing requirements of two Paramedics per ALS unit.
- I. If adding a PAU, an adopted policy indicating provider agency commitment that the incorporation of a PAU 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 PAU, if such action is detrimental to patient care of System function.

**Note:** Consideration of a request for removal or downgrade of an ALS unit to accommodate a PAU which is not detrimental to patient care or System function will be made by the OCEMS in consultation with the affected service provider on a case-by-case basis

IV. ALS UNIT/BASE HOSPITAL ASSIGNMENT:

The OCEMS shall determine the ALS unit assignment to a Base Hospital (BH) based upon the following:



- A. The average volume of responses of ALS units as well as the total number of units assigned to specific BHs shall be equitably distributed.
- B. Multiple units of an 911-ALS Service Provider will be assigned to the same respective BH, when feasible.
- C. The ALS unit's area of response is geographically contiguous to the BH.
- D. Where possible the ALS units in an assigned fire communication net will be assigned to a single BH.

V. PROCESSING NEW UNIT APPLICATION:

Upon receipt of a written application for a new unit or full time reactivation from an approved 911-ALS Service Provider agency, OCEMS shall:

- Review the application for completeness and accuracy.
- Agendize the application for review by the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC).
- Notify the service provider agency in writing of the date the application is to be presented to the EMCC.
- Notify contiguous ALS service provider agencies of receipt of the application, and the date and location of review by the EMCC.

The Medical Director will review the EMCC's recommendation regarding the application and will advise the applicant service of the approval or disapproval of an additional ALS unit or full time reactivation of an ALS unit.

VI. UNIT REACTIVATION CRITERIA:

ALS unit reactivation may be for: 1) temporary service to meet a specific meet (e.g., seasonal influx of population, special event), or 2) full time service.

A. Temporary Reactivation:

Time permitting; the 911-ALS Service Provider agency shall notify the OCEMS Program Director or his/her designee in writing or by direct voice contact of its need to place (an) additional unit into service. Notification shall include:

- The event and anticipated demand for the temporary service.
- The time frame for the temporary reactivation.
- The ALS unit identifier.

OCEMS will notify all BHs of the intent to temporarily reactivate an ALS unit, the event, the time frame, and the ALS unit identifier.

B. Full Time Reactivation:

An 911-ALS Service Provider agency requesting full time reactivation of an ALS unit shall follow the procedure for new ALS unit approval.



Orange County EMS Policy/Procedure  
ALS/PAU ACTIVATION/REACTIVATION

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**Approved:**

Handwritten signature of Sam J. Stratton in blue ink.

Sam J. Stratton, MD, MPH  
OCEMS Medical Director

Handwritten signature of Tammi McConnell in black ink.

Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN  
OCEMS Administrator

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