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Principles and Application

1. Introduction Guidelines:

Introduction guidelines provide transportation and base contact standards, medication guides, and definitions of terms used for Base Hospital Treatment Guidelines and Standing Orders.

2. Standing Orders (SO):

SO are field medical orders for specific medical conditions.

- BLS standing orders apply to EMT and paramedic level personnel.
- ALS standing orders apply to paramedic level personnel.
- Some patients may require care not specified in SO or care beyond that given using SO; when needed, Base Hospital contact should be established for further on-line medical direction and orders.
- When Base Hospital contact is made; further medical orders come from the BH. If base contact is discontinued after making contact, appropriate SO may be resumed as necessary.

3. Base Hospital Treatment Guidelines (TG):

TG are published for reference by Base Hospital and field personnel and describe clinical recommendations for the Base Hospital management of patients being treated within the Orange County EMS system.

- TG are clinical recommendations; a Base Hospital Physician may determine appropriate care not described in TG.
- Some patients may require medical interventions not covered by SO or described in TG; in such cases a Base Hospital Physician may determine appropriate field care based on parameters within the California Paramedic Basic Scope of Practice and Orange County EMS Optional Scope.

4. Procedure Guidelines:

OCEMS field procedures are published for reference by field personnel and EMS educators to describe recommendations for the performance of EMS field procedures used in the management of patients being treated within the Orange County EMS system.

• Procedure Guidelines are clinical recommendations that depending on SO directions can be initiated with or without Base Hospital contact.