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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

DATE: April 4, 2023

TO: IFT-ALS Providers

SUBJECT: USE OF REGISTERED NURSES TO STAFF IFT-ALS TRANSPORTS

The IFT-ALS program created by Orange County EMS (OCEMS) was purposely designed to use EMTs and paramedics for the delivery of patient care during transport. The EMS Medical Director is authorized to provide policies, procedures, and standing orders to govern the care delivered by these healthcare workers. No policy exists that allows the EMS Medical Director to give orders to or supervise care provided by registered nurses (RNs) during IFT-ALS transport. Base hospitals and MICNs may only provide direction to paramedics.

As such, should an IFT-ALS provider elect to use RNs to deliver care to patients during transport in place of paramedics, they will be operating outside the supervision and responsibility of OCEMS. Should an untoward medical event occur in this circumstance, the EMS Medical Director and OCEMS will share no responsibility or liability for whatever transpired. IFT-ALS providers may use RNs to staff their ambulances during patient transport, but they are solely responsible for patient care and outcomes.

This restriction does not apply to situations where an RN accompanies a paramedic during an IFT-ALS transport. Under these conditions, the paramedic is still in charge of the patient and so OCEMS retains responsibility for care and outcome.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carl Schultz, MD".

Carl H. Schultz, MD
EMS Medical Director
Orange County Health Care Agency

CHS:em#4581