



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PREHOSPITAL STANDING ORDERS / TREATMENT GUIDELINES

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Date: 4/2012
Revised: 10/01/2026

Abbreviations with Definitions

The following are definitions of abbreviations and terms used in the Orange County Treatment Guidelines, Standing Orders, and Policies. This list includes abbreviations commonly used and is not an inclusive list of all approved medical abbreviations.

<	Less than.
≤	Less than or equal.
>	Greater than.
≥	Greater than or equal.
➤	Indicates a medication or electrical cardiac conversion standing order.
→	Indicates a key step or decision element of a standing order.
AAA:	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm.
ACLS:	Advanced Cardiac Life Support.
ALS:	Advanced life support (term is often interchanged for paramedic level treatment/actions).
ALTE:	Apparent Life Threatening Event (only in child 3 years-old or less).
AMA:	Against Medical Advice.
AMS:	Altered mental status.
ARN:	Authorized Registered Nurse (authorized by Orange County EMS).
BH:	Base Hospital.
BHC:	Base Hospital Coordinator.
BHP:	Base Hospital Physician on duty at an Orange County Base Hospital.
BHR:	Base hospital report.
BHTG:	Base Hospital Treatment Guideline.
BLS:	Basic life support (term is often interchanged for BLS level treatment/actions).
BRUE:	Brief Resolved Unexplained Event. Same as ALTE (Acute Life Threatening Event).
BPM:	Beats Per Minute.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shaikhan".

Review Dates: 5/2016; 8/2018; 7/2019; 5/2026
Final Implementation Date: 04/01/2027



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Abbreviations with Definitions

CCERC:	An Orange County Emergency Medical Services designated Comprehensive Children's Emergency Receiving Center.
CHF:	Congestive heart failure.
COPD:	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.
CPAP:	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure.
CVRC:	An Orange County Emergency Medical Services designated Cardiovascular Receiving Center.
DNR:	Do Not Resuscitate.
ECG:	Electrocardiogram.
ED:	Emergency Department.
EKG:	Electrocardiogram.
EMS:	Emergency Medical Services.
EMT:	Emergency Medical Technician.
EMT-P:	Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic.
EOC:	Emergency Operations Center.
ERC:	Emergency Receiving Center, a hospital designated by the Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency to receive 9-1-1 basic life support and advanced life support transports.
ETT:	Endotracheal tube.
IFT-ALS:	Interfacility Transport-Advanced Life Support means an ambulance staffed with OCEMS accredited paramedics and EMTs, licensed by OCEMS to perform advanced life support (paramedic) level interfacility transports.
IM:	Intramuscular.
IO:	Intraosseous.
IN:	Intranasal.
IV:	Intravenous.
IVP:	"Intravenous push" or to administer by intravenous injection.
Kg:	Kilogram.

Approved:

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LEMSA:	Local EMS Agency.
MCI:	Mass Casualty Incident.
mg:	Milligram.
MI:	Myocardial infarction or "heart attack".
MICN:	Mobile Intensive Care Nurse on duty at an Orange County Base Hospital.
mL:	Milliliter.
NS:	Normal saline
OD:	Overdose
ODT:	Oral dissolving tablet (in reference to ondansetron).
PCR:	Patient care record or pre-hospital care record.
PEA:	Pulseless electrical activity.
PDE:	Push-Dose Epinephrine
PO:	Orally (per os).
PVAD:	Preexisting vascular access device.
pVT:	Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia.
ROSC:	Return of Spontaneous Circulation.
SCT:	"Specialty Care Transport" as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is an ambulance staffed with a Registered Nurse and other staff as required (such as Respiratory Therapist) that transports a critically ill patient requiring management above the scope of practice of a Paramedic.
SL:	Sublingual (under the tongue).
SMR:	Spinal motion restriction.
SNRC:	An Orange County Emergency Medical Services designated Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center.
SO:	Standing order, referring to OCEMS standing orders.
SPO2:	Oxygen saturation also known as pulse oximetry.

Approved: 

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Abbreviations with Definitions

SQ: Subcutaneous.

START: Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment.

SVT: Supraventricular tachycardia.

TC: Trauma Center

TG: Treatment Guideline.

VT: Ventricular tachycardia.

VF: Ventricular fibrillation.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Raik MD".

Review Dates: 5/2016; 8/2018; 7/2019; 5/2026
Final Implementation Date: 04/01/2027