



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PREHOSPITAL STANDING ORDERS
GENERAL BASIC LIFE SUPPORT STANDING ORDERS

#: SO-BLS
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Orig. Date: 04/2012
Revised: 10/01/2026

The following General Basic Life Support (BLS) Standing Orders authorize Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) Accredited Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) to provide assessment, treatment, monitoring, and transport of patients within their approved scope of practice (OCEMS Policy #315.00).

Additional patient condition-specific Standing Orders, Procedures, Treatment Guidelines, and Policies shall be followed when applicable.

ASSESSMENT

- Perform a primary and secondary assessment to include:
 - Level of consciousness / Glasgow Coma Scale (OCEMS Procedure B-002)
 - Pain level
 - Skin signs
 - Pupil size, symmetry, reactivity to light
 - Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT) for patient ages < 15 years of age (OCEMS Procedure B-001)
- Obtain vital signs (should be done with all EMS encounters) to include but not limited to:
 - Blood Pressure
 - Pulse Rate
 - Respiratory Rate
 - Breath Sounds
 - Pulse Oximetry (SPO2), when available
- Obtain blood glucose level as indicated.
- Reassess patient condition as clinically indicated.

AIRWAY AND BREATHING

- Ensure a patent airway and remove any airway obstructions.
- Utilize airway adjuncts, including:
 - Oropharyngeal airway (OPA)
 - Nasopharyngeal airway (NPA)
- Position patients to support airway patency and ventilation.
- Suction as indicated.
- Administer supplemental oxygen (O2) as necessary for $SPO2 \leq 95\%$ unless guidance is otherwise by specific treatment guidelines.
- Provide positive pressure ventilation using a bag-valve mask (BVM) device when indicated.
- Apply and monitor continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices as indicated.

CIRCULATION AND RESUSCITATION

- Initiate and perform CPR, including use of an approved Automated Chest Compression Device (ACCD).
- Perform Automated External Defibrillation (AED) when indicated.

Approved:

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HEMORRHAGE AND TRAUMA CARE

- Utilize approved tourniquet for uncontrolled extremity hemorrhage.
- Apply hemostatic dressings when indicated.
- Utilize wound packing for hemorrhage control.
- Apply spinal motion restriction as indicated.
- Apply extremity splints and traction splints as indicated.
- Perform field triage, including mass casualty incident (MCI) triage, when indicated.
- Extricate entrapped persons.

OBSTETRIC CARE

- Assist with emergency childbirth and provide immediate postpartum and newborn care in accordance with OCEMS Procedure B-060 (Imminent Childbirth in the Field).

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

- Administer naloxone (Narcan) as indicated.
- Administer oral glucose as indicated.
- Administer Aspirin as indicated, if available.
- Administer epinephrine auto-injector for suspected anaphylaxis and/or severe asthma, if available.
- Administer atropine and pralidoxime chloride injection (Duo Dote®) or equivalent approved nerve agent antidote as indicated, if available.
- Assist patients with medications as indicated, but not limited to:
 - Nitroglycerin
 - Albuterol and/or ipratropium (Atrovent®) inhalation metered dose inhaler (MDI) or nebulizer
 - Patient's own medications or prescribed devices

ALS ASSISTANCE

- Assist with placement of ECG leads for cardiac monitoring or 12-lead acquisition.
- Prepare intravenous fluid administration equipment as directed.
- Assist with preparation for advanced airway procedures.
- Assist Paramedics with authorized ALS procedures that are within the EMT scope of practice.

PATIENT DISPOSITION

- Honor valid Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) requests and end-of-life documents in accordance with OCEMS policy, including:
 - Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)
 - Advance Healthcare Directive
 - Physician-signed DNR orders
 - Other legally recognized end-of-life documents

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TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

- Transport patients in accordance with applicable OCEMS Standing Orders, Procedures, Treatment Guidelines, and Policies.
- Monitor and maintain pre-existing intravenous lines delivering glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions, including Lactated Ringer's at a set rate of infusion or adjust the infusion rate as necessary to maintain a preset flow rate.
- Transport patients with approved pre-existing vascular access devices and indwelling medical devices in accordance with EMT Scope of Practice and OCEMS Policy 310.20.
- Utilize patient restraints when necessary to protect the patient, EMS personnel, or others, in accordance with applicable policies.
- Transport pediatric patients utilizing an age- and size-appropriate restraint system (e.g., Neo-mate, Pedi-mate, car seat, etc.).

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Smith", written over a horizontal line.

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