

EMS System Operations
ALS to BLS Downgrades**Date: 02/01/2025****Policy #4250****I. Purpose:**

- A. To establish a procedure for the appropriate downgrading of patient care from Advanced Life Support (ALS) to Basic Life Support (BLS) by EMS personnel in Imperial County, ensuring patient safety and compliance with medical control guidelines.

II. Authority:

- A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

III. Policy:

- A. Following a comprehensive patient assessment by ALS personnel, a downgrade from ALS to BLS transport may be considered if the patient's condition is stable and does not require ALS-level care.
- B. The ALS provider must contact the Base Hospital for approval before initiating a downgrade. The Base Hospital physician or Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) must review the patient's condition and provide authorization for the downgrade.
- C. If approved, the ALS provider must document the following:
 - i. Patient's initial condition and chief complaint.
 - ii. Rationale for downgrading to BLS transport.
 - iii. Base Hospital contact details, including the name of the approving MICN or physician.
 - iv. Any interventions performed before downgrade approval.
 - v. The patient's response to treatment and current vital signs.
 - vi. Confirmation that the patient meets BLS transport criteria.
- D. Once approved, patient care shall be transferred to BLS personnel, and transport will continue under BLS protocols.

IV. Quality Assurance & Review

- A. All ALS to BLS downgrades will be subject to retrospective review by the provider agency's Quality Improvement (QI) program as well as Base Hospital review.
- B. Trends in ALS to BLS downgrades will be monitored to ensure compliance with established medical protocols and patient safety standards.

APPROVED:

SIGNATURE ON FILE – DATE

Katherine Staats, M.D., FACEP

EMS Medical Director