

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZATION FOR PARAMEDIC PROVIDER
STATUS OF A LOS ANGELES COUNTY BASED
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

REFERENCE NO. 422

PURPOSE: To provide standardized guidance for law enforcement agencies with paramedic personnel on the requirements to serve as a law enforcement ALS provider in Los Angeles County.

AUTHORITY: Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, §1797.52, 1797.94, 1797,109,1797.178, 1797.180, 1797.201
Health & Safety Code, §1797.223, (d)
California code of regulations, title 22, §100145, 100148, 100166, 100167, 100168, 100169, 100400 and 100402

DEFINITIONS:

Advanced Life Support (ALS): A standard of patient care requiring paramedic level assessment and/or intervention listed in Ref. No. 803, Los Angeles County Paramedic Scope of Practice.

Assessment Unit (AU): An emergency response unit utilized by an approved provider agency which complies with the operational criteria outlined in Ref. No. 416, Assessment Unit. AUs may be fire department or law enforcement agency sponsored. An assessment unit that is sponsored by a law enforcement agency may administer medical care to patients while awaiting jurisdictional 9-1-1 paramedic provider agency arrival.

ALS Tactical Response Unit: A medical response team, including paramedic TEMS personnel, authorized to provide medical care during a tactical response utilizing their authorized ALS scope of practice.

Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST): Basic police officer training developed, evaluated, and approved by the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training.

Tactical Medicine Training Program: A POST-certified and California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) approved, specific operational training program for tactical medicine EMS providers and operators to safely deliver medical care during a law enforcement (LE) response.

Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Personnel: Physicians, emergency medical technicians (EMT's), paramedics or mobile intensive care nurses (MICNs) that have successfully completed a tactical medicine training program, that provide medical care during a tactical response utilizing their authorized scope of practice.

EFFECTIVE: 10-01-22
REVISED: New Policy
SUPERSEDES:

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

Paramedic Provider Agency: An agency that is approved by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency to sponsor paramedics, meeting the requirements as outlined in Ref. No. 406, Authorization for Paramedic Provider Status, and has a written agreement with the EMS Agency to participate in the EMS system and comply with all applicable state regulations, local policies, and procedures, including participation in EMS quality improvement programs.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Los Angeles County based law enforcement (LE) agencies may have paramedic personnel trained to provide ALS level care in the prehospital setting. In many instances, LE are first on scene to a medical emergency or are operating in tactical environments that are high risk for medical emergencies to occur.
2. Law enforcement agencies may have assets (e.g., helicopter resources) that fulfill a specific function in the Los Angeles County EMS system or be designated jurisdictional providers and require EMS personnel able to operate with an ALS scope of practice.
3. Law enforcement tactical operations require preplanning and the support of medical personnel specifically trained to provide medical care and respond to tactical medical emergencies.
4. Locally accredited LE paramedics who have completed required training may provide a beneficial service to the community when first on scene, bridging ALS care until a 9-1-1 jurisdictional paramedic provider agency arrives.
5. Skills maintenance and quality improvement are important components for sustaining paramedic provider competency. LE Paramedic Provider Agencies must ensure active clinical practice for their paramedics as well as quality improvement programs.

POLICY:

- I. LE Paramedic Provider Agency Requirements
 - A. LE agencies may sponsor their locally accredited paramedics upon EMS Agency approval as a Paramedic Provider Agency.
 - B. All LE Paramedic Provider Agencies shall:
 1. Follow the requirements outlined in Ref. No. 406, Authorization for Paramedic Provider Status, for Paramedic Provider Agency status approval.
 2. Have and retain a Medical Director that meets the requirements of Ref. No. 411, Provider Agency Medical Director.
 3. Maintain continuing education and quality improvement programs.
- II. LE Paramedic Provider Agency Roles
 - A. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)

1. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) has a designated dispatch and response area, providing search and rescue (SAR) and ALS services in Los Angeles County (LAC) as directed by the LAC Board of Supervisors and defined by the Joint Emergency Medical Services and Search and Rescue Operational Procedures Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LAC Fire Department.
 2. LASD is the only LE Paramedic Provider Agency operating in LAC that is dispatched and/or requested for mutual aid as a primary responding paramedic provider agency.
- B. Tactical Operations Medical Support
1. LE agencies may have organizational paramedic personnel who can be deployed to provide medical care during intrinsic LE agency tactical operations.
 2. Upon approval as a Paramedic Provider Agency, LE agencies may sponsor their locally accredited paramedic personnel to provide medical care during intrinsic LE agency tactical operations.
 3. Paramedic Provider Agencies providing tactical operations medical support shall meet the requirements as outlined in Ref. No. 840, Medical Support During Tactical Operations. Staffing configurations may include fire-based paramedic(s), and/or paramedic(s) from an approved LE Paramedic Provider Agency with the addition of other Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Personnel as indicated.
- C. ALS Assessment Unit
1. LE agencies may have paramedic personnel readily available while conducting routine law enforcement activities and may arrive to a scene for a patient with acute medical needs prior to the jurisdictional 9-1-1 paramedic provider.
 2. LE Paramedic Provider Agencies may request approval to staff an ALS Assessment Unit as per Ref. No 416, Assessment Unit.
 3. Approved LE ALS Assessment Unit paramedics may administer medical care to patients while awaiting jurisdictional 9-1-1 paramedic provider agency arrival.
 4. LE ALS Assessment Units may only administer medical care in areas where the sponsoring LE Paramedic Provider agency has notified the jurisdictional 9-1-1 paramedic provider agency in writing of LE ALS Assessment Unit operations unless deployed operationally as part of a tactical operations medical support outside of the normally approved area of operations.

5. If arriving on scene to a LE dispatched call and a medical patient is identified who requires medical care, the LE Assessment Unit shall notify the jurisdictional 9-1-1 paramedic provider agency.
6. LE ALS Assessment Units will not provide patient transportation. Transportation is the responsibility of the jurisdictional fire department, or the ambulance provider agency contracted by that fire department or the EMS Agency (Exclusive Operating Area Providers) for emergency ambulance transportation.
7. LE ALS Assessment Unit paramedics shall complete a minimum of 16 hours of clinical contact hours per month with a 9-1-1 jurisdictional paramedic provider agency or a designated Base Hospital in Los Angeles County to maintain patient assessment and psychomotor skills.
8. LE Paramedic Provider Agencies seeking ALS Assessment Unit approval must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Employ at minimum, two (2) state licensed, Los Angeles County accredited paramedics.
 - b. Employ at minimum, two (2) California certified EMTs.
 - c. Notify in writing each jurisdictional paramedic provider agency whose jurisdiction the LE Agency intends to operate within.
 - d. Establish a MOU with the EMS Agency.
 - e. Establish a plan and necessary agreements to facilitate paramedic monthly ride alongs with a jurisdictional 9-1-1 paramedic provider agency and/or clinical contact hours with a designated base hospital in Los Angeles County.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:

Ref. No. 406, **Authorization for Paramedic Provider Status**

Ref. No. 411, **Provider Agency Medical Director**

Ref. No. 416, **Assessment Unit**

Ref. No. 602, **Confidentiality of Patient Information**

Ref. No. 606, **Documentation of Prehospital Care**

Ref. No. 607, **Electronic Submission of Prehospital Patient Data**

Ref. No. 608, **Retention and Disposition of Prehospital Patient Care Records**

Ref. No. 620, **EMS Quality Improvement Program**

Ref. No. 621, **Notification of Personnel Change**

Ref. No. 621.1, **Notification of Personnel Change Form Provider Agency/Training Programs**

Ref. No. 704, **Assessment Unit Inventory**

Ref. No. 622, **Release of EMS Data**

Ref. No. 840, **Medical Support During Tactical Operations**

Ref. No. 1200, **Treatment Protocols**, et al.

Ref. No. 1300, **Medical Control Guidelines**, et al.