



March 20, 2025

MEMORANDUM

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*"To advance the health of our
communities by ensuring
quality emergency and
disaster medical services."*



Health Services
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

TO: Distribution

FROM: Nichole Bosson, MD, MPH
Medical Director, LA County EMS Agency

**SUBJECT: UPDATED LOS ANGELES DEVELOPMENT & RAPID
OPERATIONALIZATION OF PREHOSPITAL BLOOD (LA-
DROP) PILOT**

This is to notify you that the Los Angeles Development & Rapid Operationalization of Prehospital Blood (LA-DROP) Pilot will begin April 1, 2025.

The prehospital blood transfusion pilot provider agencies include the Los Angeles County Fire Department (units specified below) and Compton Fire Department. LA-DROP is a partnership with these provider agencies, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, the San Diego Blood Bank, and the Los Angeles County EMS Agency. The California EMS Authority has approved prehospital blood transfusion in local optional scope of practice for LA County.

Participating Pilot Units	
Region	Units
LA County Fire Battalion 7	s10, s36, s41, s116
LA County Fire Battalion 18	s21, s158, s161
LA County Fire Battalion 20	S14, s171, s172, s173
Compton Fire	All Units

Participating ALS units will be equipped with blood products, either low-titer O positive whole blood (LTO+WB) or packed red blood cells (PRBC), which may be administered to **adult patients (≥15 years old) in hemorrhagic shock from trauma or post-partum hemorrhage per the attached protocol**. Blood storage and administration will be rigorously monitored per The Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB) Standards.

Paramedics will follow usual base contact and destination policies. **All 9-1-1 receiving centers should be aware of this pilot and the attached hospital resource document**, in particular Trauma Centers and Base Hospitals. Base Hospitals will receive a separate communication with additional training resources.

Data are collected for system quality improvement and patient safety monitoring. Outcome reporting, including identification of any transfusion reactions, is required by the California EMS Authority. Therefore, a participating provider agency medical director will be contacting hospitals for limited data on transfused patients and provide a HIPAA-compliant form for submission.

For more background on the program, you may view this video, which introduces the training program and rationale for the prehospital blood transfusion pilot in LA County: <https://vimeo.com/1062996337>. Further details are also available in the attached Facts and Questions.

To support the program, there will be increased opportunities to donate blood and we will notify you when these opportunities are available.

If you have any questions please contact me at nbosson@dhs.lacounty.gov or (562) 378-1600.

Attachments:

Prehospital Blood Transfusion Protocol, Checklist and Consent Tool
Receiving Hospital Resource Document
Facts and Questions

c: Director, EMS Agency
Fire Chiefs, Public Provider Agencies
Medical Directors, Public Provider Agencies
Paramedic Coordinators, Public Provider Agencies
EMS Educators, Public Provider Agencies
Medical Directors, Ambulance Companies
Paramedic Coordinators, Ambulance Companies
Direct of Operations, EOA Provider Agencies
Medical Director, Paramedic Base Hospitals
Prehospital Care Coordinator, Paramedic Base Hospitals
Chief Executive Officers, 9-1-1 Receiving Hospitals
ED Managers, 9-1-1 Receiving Centers
Hospital Association of Southern California
California EMS Authority