



DEFINITIONS

Unless the context or an individual policy or law otherwise requires, the definitions contained in this section shall govern the provisions of these OCEMS Policy and Procedures.

"5150" means a patient who is held against his/her will for evaluation under the authority of Welfare & Institutions Code 5150 because the patient is a danger to him/herself, a danger to others, and/or is gravely disabled, e.g., unable to care for self. This written order may be placed by a law enforcement officer, County mental health worker, or an emergency physician certified by the County Mental Health Department to place an individual on a 5150 hold. (Pediatric equivalent is Welfare & Institutions Code 5158.5).

"Acute" means of short or intense course, not chronic, of recent or sudden onset.

"Adjunct" means equipment, special devices and drugs used by specially trained personnel to assist them in the performance of life support measures. Examples: airway, cardiac monitor, intravenous infusion, oxygen, lidocaine.

"Advanced Emergency Medical Technician" or "Advanced EMT" means a California certified EMT with additional training in limited advanced life support (LALS) according to the standards prescribed by law and who has a valid certificate issued pursuant to regulation. (*Health & Safety Code, Div. 2.5, Ch. 2, Sec. 1797.82, Title 22, Div. 9, Ch. 3, Sec. 100103*)

"Advanced life support" or "ALS" means special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care, including but not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, administration of specified drugs and other medicinal preparations, and other specified techniques and procedures administered by authorized personnel under the direct supervision of a base hospital as part of a local EMS system at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital, during interfacility transfer, and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital. (*Health & Safety Code, Div. 2.5, Ch. 2, Sec. 1797.52*)

"Advanced life support unit" or "ALS unit" means an emergency vehicle, such as a van, engine company, truck company, squad, helicopter or other emergency vehicle that is specially equipped and staffed by one or more OCEMS-accredited paramedics to provide advanced life support to the sick and injured at a medical emergency.

"Air ambulance" means any aircraft specially constructed, modified or equipped, and used for the primary purposes of responding to emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients whose medical flight crew has at a minimum two (2) attendants certified or licensed in advanced life support. (*Title 22, Div. 9, Ch. 8, Sec. 100280*)

"AMA - Refusal of EMS Care and Transport Against Medical Advice" means a competent patient who is determined by an EMT/Paramedic or base hospital (BH) to have a medical problem which requires the immediate treatment and/or transportation capabilities of the EMS system, and who has been advised of his/her condition and the known and unknown risks and/or possible complications of refusing medical care, and who still declines medical care and transport.

"Ambulance" means a surface emergency transportation vehicle that is specifically constructed, modified, equipped, designed, used, and operated for transporting sick, injured, convalescing, infirm, or otherwise medically incapacitated persons in need of ambulance service. (*California Highway Patrol*)



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"Authority" or "EMS Authority" means the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the State's lead agency established by the *Health & Safety Code, Divisions 2.5*.

"Automatic aid" means a contract between two or more agencies agreeing to an exchange of emergency response units, such as fire apparatus, paramedic unit, etc., to a predetermined geographical area, regardless of political boundaries to deal with day to day emergencies. Also, see Mutual Aid.

"Base hospital" or "BH" means one of a limited number of hospitals which, upon designation by the local EMS agency and upon the completion of a written contractual agreement with the local EMS agency, is responsible for directing the advanced life support system or limited advanced life support system and prehospital care system assigned to it by the local EMS agency. (*Health & Safety Code, Div. 2.5, Ch. 2, Sec. 1797.58*)

"Base hospital physician" or "BHP" means a physician and surgeon who is currently licensed in California, who is assigned to the emergency department of a base hospital, and who has been trained to issue advice and instructions to prehospital emergency medical care personnel consistent with statewide guidelines established by the Authority. (*Health & Safety Code, Div. 2.5, Ch. 2, Sec. 1797.59*)

"Base hospital report" or "BHR" means documentation either on paper or via OC-MEDS by Base Hospital Personnel during base-contacted calls. If electronic, may also be referred to as "eBHR"

"Basic life support" or "BLS" means emergency first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures which, as minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to maintain life without invasive techniques until the victim may be transported or until advanced life support is available. (*Health & Safety Code, Div. 2.5, Ch. 2, Sec. 1797.60*)

"Basic life support unit" or "BLS unit" means means an emergency vehicle, such as a van, engine company, truck company or other emergency vehicle that is specially equipped and staffed by one or more OCEMS-accredited EMTs to provide basic life support to the sick and injured at a medical emergency.

"Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)" means opening and maintaining an airway, providing artificial ventilation by rescue breathing and providing artificial circulation by means of external cardiac compression, and as otherwise defined by the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross.

"Certificate" or "license" means a specific document issued to an individual denoting competence in the named area of prehospital service. (*Health & Safety Code, Div. 2.5, Ch. 2, Sec. 1797.61(a)*.)

"Certifying examination" or "examination for certification" means an examination designated by the Authority for a specific level of prehospital emergency medical care personnel that must be satisfactorily passed prior to certification or re-certification at the specific level and may include any examination or examinations designated by the Authority, including but not limited to, any of the following options determined appropriate by the Authority: (*Health & Safety Code, Div. 2.5, Ch. 2, Sec. 1797.63*)

- a. An examination developed either by the EMS Authority or under the auspices of the Authority or approved by the Authority and administered by the Authority or any entity designated by the Authority to administer the examination.
- b. An examination developed and administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

