Loudoun County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

EMS Policy #13

Utilization of ALS Providers in Non-Transport Agencies

Origin: 11/80
Revision: 03/10

1. BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth of Virginia, the Loudoun County Operational Medical Director, the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Commission, and the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services support the concept of ALS personnel in non-transport agencies. Presently, there are three (3) Fire-Rescue agencies located within Loudoun County which do not have an EMS transport agency either in the same building or physically located in their first due area. This policy has been established to address the provision of ALS care by these non-transport agencies.

2. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

A. To establish guidelines for the utilization of ALS certified personnel in non-transport agencies where there is no existing transport agency physically located in their first due area.

B. To ensure the timely utilization of ALS resources in those areas which do not have a transport agency physically located in their first due area.

C. In addition, to ensure that ALS providers in non-transport agencies are adequately supervised, and participate in regularly scheduled EMS training programs, in order to maintain the level of knowledge and skill proficiency necessary to perform their duties.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

The individual Fire-Rescue Agencies involved in this process shall be responsible to the Loudoun County Operational Medical Director for the coordination and provision of such service as outlined in this policy.

4. PROCEDURES

A written agreement (see Appendix) between the EMS transport agency and the non-transport agency, outlining the provisions of this policy, shall be in effect before ALS personnel in non-transport agencies are authorized to practice their skills in the field. Such agreement must be approved by the Operational Medical Director and shall address the following:

A. Affiliation of the ALS provider with the first due EMS transport agency

Non-transport agencies need to allow an affiliation by their ALS providers with the EMS transport agency in whose first due area the building of the non-transport agency is physically located.

B. Dual Responsibilities

Clear direction on the dual responsibilities of the ALS provider to their parent non-transport agency and their EMS transport agency affiliation.

C. Training

Flexibility by both the parent agency and the affiliated agency needs to be exercised to allow for required training in both agencies. At no time shall the requirements for the non-transport ALS provider exceed those required for the EMS transport agency's ALS providers. In addition, EMS transport and non-transport agency Chiefs shall make joint recommendations for ALS Challenge testing and ALS classes.

D. Discipline

The Chief of the non-transport agency and the Chief of the affiliated EMS transport agency need to establish a strong line of communication to deal with disciplinary actions in their perspective fields of operation.

E. Response procedures

In order to be an effective ALS provider, it is strongly encouraged that the initial ALS care provider accompanies the patient through their delivery to the receiving medical facility. The written agreement shall address this concern and the procedures to be utilized in providing such continuity of patient care.

F. Duty Hours

Both non-transport and transport agencies need to honor any established and assigned duty hours. It is essential that the ALS providers notify the EMS transport agency Chief of their availability, and once they have been assigned duty time, that the EMS transport agency honor this schedule and shall not arbitrarily remove these persons in favor of in-house providers.

F. Equipment and Supplies

The responsibility for equipment and supplies, including any medications carried in the Medication Kit should be delegated from the Chief of the non-transport agency to the ALS provider(s) if the Chief is not an ALS provider.

H. Reporting

The ALS provider is required to participate in the reporting requirements of the EMS transport agency and those required by the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., through its established Policies, Procedures,

and Protocols (e.g., the Peer Review procedures, semi-annual skills update, etc.).

I. Medical Control

The Operational Medical Director, through the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., and its ALS Committee, establishes required Policies, Procedures, and Protocols by which ALS providers agree to adhere. In all medical procedures, the Operational Medical Director has final authority. However, it is the practice of the Operational Medical Director to work in concert with the ALS provider's Chief. Under this policy, the Operational Medical Director will work with both the non-transport agency Chief and the Chief of the affiliated EMS transport agency.

5. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

Annual elections of operational officers can result in changes in operational procedures. Because of this factor, the written agreement entered into must be an agency-to-agency agreement with the subsequent approval of the Operational Medical Director. A copy of the signed agreement shall be maintained on behalf of the Operational Medical Director by the ALS Committee, and shall remain in effect as long as the non-transport company has ALS providers. In addition, either the non-transport agency or EMS transport agency has the right to request the termination of the agreement for cause through the Operational Medical Director. The Operational Medical Director shall review such requests and take action as deemed appropriate.

6. REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

A. The ALS Committee, on behalf of the Operational Medical Director, and the Loudoun County EMS Council, Inc., will conduct a review of the agreement, as deemed necessary by the Operational Medical Director, to ensure its effectiveness. Concurrently, those agencies that have entered into ALS Non-Transport Provider Agreements will make an annual review of said agreement and make recommendations for policy changes to the Operational Medical Director through the ALS Committee.

B. The ALS Committee will ensure that both companies involved are adhering to all agreements, which have been entered into.

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