

# SIERRA-SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMS AGENCY PROGRAM POLICY

REFERENCE NO. 890

## SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION FAILURE

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### PURPOSE

To define the specific conditions under which a Paramedic or Advanced EMT may utilize Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Limited Advanced Life Support (LALS) drugs and procedures for patient care, in the event of communication failure.

### AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.84, 1797.185, 1797.220, 1798, 1798.100, 1798.102

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

### POLICY

In the event that a Paramedic or Advanced EMT at the scene of an emergency attempts direct voice contact with a base hospital but cannot establish or maintain that contact:

- A. The Paramedic or Advanced EMT may initiate necessary ALS / LALS procedures specified in the approved S-SV EMS policies and protocols.
- B. Base / modified base contact is required to perform the procedures(s) and/or to administer medication(s) that are identified in S-SV policy/protocol as “**Base / Modified Base Hospital Physician Order Only.**” In the event of communication failure those procedures / medications **shall not** be performed / administered.

### PROCEDURE

In each instance where ALS / LALS procedures are initiated or attempted under the conditions specified for communication failure, the Paramedic or Advanced EMT shall:

- A. Attempt to establish base hospital contact throughout the call, as circumstances permit.
- B. Immediately upon voice contact, provide a verbal report to the base hospital physician or mobile intensive care nurse.

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**Approved:**

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**SIGNATURE ON FILE**  
**S-SV EMS Medical Director**

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**SIGNATURE ON FILE**  
**S-SV EMS Regional Executive Director**

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**EXCEPTION:**

The Paramedic or Advanced EMT, functioning within a modified base hospital response area, renders patient care based on S-SV approved policy/protocol (standing orders) without “on-line” medical control.

The following procedures are currently identified as “**Base/Modified Hospital Physician Order Only**”:

1. Chemical restraint of combative patients with midazolam (Reference No. 852).
2. Terminating resuscitative efforts utilizing either the BLS or ALS termination of resuscitation criteria if no ROSC in an adult pulseless arrest patient (Reference No. C-1).
3. The activation and use of the Nerve Agent Treatment Protocol (Reference No. E-8).

**CROSS REFERENCES:**

Policy and Procedure Manual

Modified Base Hospital, Reference No. 305

Base Hospital Contact, Reference No. 812

Violent Patient Restraint Mechanisms, Reference No. 852

Pulseless Arrest, Reference No. C-1

Nerve Agent Treatment, Reference No. E-8