


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Communication Failure**

	Effective: 12/01/2023	Next Review: 07/2026	<b>890</b>
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: John Poland – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

**PURPOSE:**

To define conditions under which prehospital personnel may utilize certain advanced life support (ALS) procedures/medications in the event of a communication failure.

**AUTHORITY:**

- A. HSC, Division 2.5, § 1797.84, 1797.185, 1797.220, 1798, 1798.100, and 1798.102.
- B. CCR, Title 22, Division 9.

**POLICY:**

If during patient care an AEMT or paramedic attempts but cannot establish or maintain adequate base/modified base hospital contact:

- A. They may continue to utilize procedures/medications listed in S-SV EMS standing order policies/protocols, as warranted by the patient’s condition.
- B. Procedures/medications designated as ‘Base/Modified Base Hospital Order Only’ may be utilized under communication failure conditions, as warranted by the patient’s condition.
- C. The following procedures/medications designated as ‘Base/Modified Base Hospital Physician Order Only’ shall not be utilized without a direct order from a base/modified base hospital physician:
  - 1. Terminating resuscitative efforts utilizing the BLS termination of resuscitation criteria if no ROSC in an adult pulseless arrest patient (Reference No. C-1).
  - 2. Administration of activated charcoal (Reference No. M-5).
  - 3. Utilization of the Nerve Agent Treatment Protocol (Reference No. E-8).

---

**PROCEDURE:**

In each instance where LALS/ALS procedures and/or medications are utilized under communication failure conditions, the AEMT or paramedic shall:

- A. Attempt to establish base/modified base hospital contact by telephone and/or radio throughout the call as circumstances permit.
- B. Immediately upon voice contact, provide a verbal report to the base/modified base hospital MICN or physician.
- C. Document the existence and reason for the communication failure condition in the patient care report (PCR).