


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy			
Communication Failure			
	Effective: 10/01/2025	Next Review: 04/2028	<b>890</b>
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## PURPOSE:

To define conditions under which prehospital personnel may utilize certain limited advanced life support (LALS) or 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, & 1798.102.
- B. CCR, Title 22, Division 9.

## POLICY:

If during patient care an AEMT or paramedic attempts but cannot establish/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 in adult pulseless arrest patients, utilizing the BLS termination of resuscitation criteria or when all ALS termination of resuscitation criteria are not met (Reference No. C-1/C-1 LALS).
  - 2. Administration of activated charcoal (Reference No. M-5/M-5 LALS).
  - 3. Utilization of the Nerve Agent Treatment Protocol (Reference No. E-8/E-8 LALS).

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**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. Provide a verbal report to the base/modified base hospital MICN or physician upon voice contact, if applicable.
- C. Document the existence and reason for the communication failure condition in the patient care report (PCR).