

Policy and Procedures

Title: ALS Intercepts

Date issued / last revision: December 26, 2003

Date effective: Immediately

ALS Intercepts

Statement:

This policy has been established to provide guidelines for employees responding to requests for ALS assistance to BLS staffed ambulances.

Purpose:

It is the policy of Cooperstown Medical Transport, Inc (CMT) that all requests for Advanced Life Support assistance to BLS staffed ambulances will be filled in a manner that provides the quickest response to the requesting agency.

Scope:

This policy applies to all CMT employees, full time, part time and interns.

Policy:

1. Dispatching:
 - a. Dispatchers will use the “closest car” concept when filling any requests for ALS assistance to BLS staffed ambulances. If dispatch information suggests need for Paramedic level care and the closest ALS unit is staffed at the CC level the unit will be dispatched along with the closest Paramedic unit.
 - b. When a request is received by the CMT communications center, the dispatcher will determine from the caller the exact location and nature of the call, the transport destination, and the route of travel being taken by the BLS ambulance.
 - c. Once a unit is dispatched and en route the requesting communications center will be advised (via low band):
 - i. That CMT is responding
 - ii. Unit #
 - iii. Location responding from
 - iv. On scene time, when appropriate
 - v. Clear of scene, when appropriate
 - vi. Out at facility, when appropriate
 - vii. In service, when appropriate
2. Crew Response:
 - a. When responding to requests for ALS assistance, vehicles will, at all times, be operated in a safe manner (refer to *Vehicle Response* policy).
 - b. Crew’s should attempt to contact the requesting agency on a prearranged radio frequency or as default 155.340 MHz. to coordinate a safe, efficient “linkup.”
 - c. Upon meeting the requesting agency the crew will advise CMT dispatch and the appropriate 911 center that “link up” is complete.
 - d. The ALS technician and their partner will transfer the required ALS equipment (oxygen, cardiac monitor, ALS Jump bag and drug bag) to the requesting ambulance. Crews should use great caution conducting these operations on or near roadways due to traffic hazards.

- e. After the ALS provider joins the crew of the requesting ambulance, the CMT ambulance will proceed directly to the hospital in non-emergency mode. Refer to *Ambulance Responses* for further information.
 - f. When a Fly Car is used, an approved driver of the requesting ambulance crew, fire department or a police agency may drive the vehicle, in a non-emergency mode to a convenient prearranged location if necessary. Refer to *Ambulance Responses* for further information.
 - g. If a vehicle must be left on scene, then it must be left in a safe, secure manner with concern for environmental conditions.
3. Special Considerations:
- a. ALS technicians must take all needed ALS equipment from their vehicle onto the requesting agency ambulance. Requests for controlled substance assists will be handled in exactly the same manner as any other request for ALS intercept services. (See Dispatching #1 above).
 - b. ALS intercepts are for the provision of Advanced Life Support services to BLS staffed ambulances only. New York State Certified ambulances must provide at least an EMT-B in charge of patient care.

It is CMT's policy that our ALS technicians cannot provide intercept services to ambulances that do not meet legal requirements for transport.

- c. When in a fly car and confronted with this situation you should notify dispatch so that the nearest ambulance can be dispatched. (This may be CMT or another, closer agency.) As soon as an appropriate ambulance arrives on the scene transport should begin.