INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT NURSE STAFFED UNITS

PURPOSE

To state the requirements for nurse-staffed ALS Interfacility transport units meeting all local, county, ICEMA and state requirements.

AUTHORITY

Title 22, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.52, 1797.178, 1798.170, and 1798.172 of the California Health and Safety Code.

PROGRAM APPROVAL

1. Requests for approval must be made in writing sixty (60) days prior to the anticipated starting date of service to the Executive Director of ICEMA and include:
   a. Proposed identification and location of the nurse-staffed unit
   b. All procedures and protocols
   c. Documentation of qualifications for the Medical Director
   d. Documentation of qualifications for the Nursing Coordinator
   e. Quality assurance plan
   f. Agreement to comply with all ICEMA policies and procedures
2. ICEMA will notify the applicant in writing within ten (10) working days following receipt of request for approval if any further documentation is needed
3. The applicant shall be notified in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of complete package of the approval or denial of the program

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED NURSE PERSONNEL

1. RN currently licensed to practice in the State of California
2. At the provider's option, an RN may be employed by the ambulance provider or be a contract employee
3. Current BLS, ACLS and PALS certification from the American Heart Association or equivalent
4. A minimum of two (2) years experience in an ICU or ED in the previous three (3) years, prior to employment with the ambulance provider
5. Successful completion of an in-house orientation program related to ICEMA protocols and procedures and Endotracheal Intubation training
6. Certification in any of the following is desirable but not required: Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN); Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN); Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN)
7. Continuing education requirement documentation:
   a. Minimum of ninety-six (96) hours of ICU or ED experience per year
   b. Minimum of two (2) successful Endotracheal Intubations every two (2) years
   c. Maintain current California State RN license, BLS, ACLS and PALS certification

EQUIPMENT

In addition to the items required by California Administrative Code, Title XIII, the ambulance provider shall provide, at a minimum, the following equipment:

1. ALS Equipment per Protocol Reference #2001 ALS Standard Drug & Equipment List
2. Cardiac monitor **with external pacemaker**
3. Infusion pump(s)
4. Back-up power source

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

1. Medical Director: A full or part-time Physician licensed in the State of California and qualified by training and experience with recent, within the last five (5) years, practice in emergency or acute critical care medicine. The ICEMA Medical Director must approve the candidate for medical director. The duties of the medical director shall include but not be limited to:
   a. Sign and approve, in advance, all medical protocols to be followed by the RN at the ALS level
   b. Ensure the ongoing training of all medical personnel involved
   c. Ensure the quality of patient transfers being conducted by the provider, including familiarity with SB612 and COBRA laws
   d. Ensure that quality assurance outcome audits are being conducted
2. Nursing Coordinator: A full or part-time RN employed as Nursing Coordinator qualified by training and/or experience with recent practice in emergency or acute critical care nursing. The duties of the Nursing Coordinator shall include but not be limited to:
   a. Sign and approve, in advance, all nursing procedures to be followed by the RN at the ALS level
   b. Provide ongoing training of all medical personnel involved
   c. Ensure quality of patient transfers being conducted by the provider by conducting patient care audits

PROCEDURES/PROTOCOLS

1. Each company providing nurse-staffed ALS units shall develop and maintain procedures for the hiring and training of nursing personnel and vehicle staffing
2. Each provider must develop a manual to include the following:
   a. Malpractice insurance coverage
   b. Identity and accessibility of the Physician Director and Nursing Coordinator
   c. Vehicle inventory lists
   d. Copies of all related inter-facility transfer paperwork
   e. Statement of responsibility of the sending physician for the patient during transfer and in accordance with COBRA and SB612 laws
   f. Guidelines for change in patient destination due to patient condition
   g. Protocols (Standing Orders) based on ACLS, PALS, and/or NALS guidelines
3. Procedures and protocols shall be subject to review by ICEMA

QUALITY ASSURANCE

1. Submit to ICEMA a quality improvement plan and submit quarterly reports to ICEMA
2. All transports resulting in poor patient outcome shall be reviewed in a timely manner following the occurrence
3. Periodic staff conferences on audit and outcomes are required in order to improve or revise protocols.
4. Records of all these activities shall be kept by the provider and be made available for inspection and audit by ICEMA
5. ICEMA shall perform periodic on-site audits of records to ensure compliance with this policy

6. Compliance with this policy may cause ICEMA to suspend or revoke approval of a nurse-staffed ALS inter-facility transport unit

APPROVED:

MAR 0 8 2006

San Bernardino Co. Health Officer Date

3/21/06

Mono Co. Health Officer Date

2-28-06

ICEMA Medical Director Date

James Richardson MD 3/16/06

Inyo Co. Health Officer Date

Virginia Hastings 3/23/06

ICEMA Executive Director Date