



<b>REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY</b>	Title: ALS Upgrade of EMS Service
	Section: Patient Care
	Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
	Effective: December 6, 2023

## **ALS UPGRADE OF EMS SERVICE**

### **I. PURPOSE**

To describe an in-field service level upgrade, using advanced level EMS vehicle service providers.

### **II. POLICY**

#### **BLS Vehicle Responding to a Patient Requiring ALS Care**

- A. If a BLS vehicle responds to a patient that meets criteria for ALS care as per the Initiation of Patient Care Policy, BLS personnel should contact Online Medical Control.
- B. BLS personnel should estimate the patient transport time to the closest appropriate facility.
  1. If the established patient transport time to the closest appropriate facility is within five minutes:
    - a. The BLS vehicle shall transport the patient to the closest appropriate facility.
    - b. The receiving facility shall be alerted to the unusual transport circumstances through the designated pre-notification phone line. If the receiving facility does not answer the phone call, the BLS vehicle should contact its dispatch.
  2. If the estimated patient transport time to the closest appropriate facility is greater than five minutes:
    - a. Consult with OLMC. OLMC will contact the private provider associated with the BLS vehicle and request availability of an ALS backup.
    - b. If ALS response is not available in a timely manner by the provider of the BLS vehicle, OLMC will directly contact the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) and request a CFD ambulance response.
    - c. If the anticipated delay for ALS response is deemed detrimental to patient care, OLMC should recommend rapid transport by the BLS vehicle to the closest appropriate facility.
  3. When a BLS ambulance transfers care to an ALS ambulance, the ALS ambulance will transport the patient.