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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** All Kern County EMS Service Providers  
All Kern County EMS Receiving Hospitals

June 29, 2017

**FROM:** Jana Richardson  
Senior EMS Coordinator

Kristopher Lyon, M.D.  
Medical Director

**SUBJECT: IN HOSPITAL ALS TO BLS HANDOFF**

The intent of this memo is to provide clarification from the Division regarding the handoff of a patient from advanced life support (ALS) personnel to basic life support (BLS) personnel within an emergency department (ED) of a receiving hospital.

The following is the Division's guideline for the handoff to occur:

Ambulance personnel shall maintain care and treatment of the patient for a period of twenty (20) minutes upon arriving to the ED ambulance entrance, unless received earlier by ED medical personnel. Once twenty (20) minutes has elapsed and no bed assignment or other placement directive has been given, the patient who meets the following criteria may be handed off to BLS personnel:

1. At least 18 years old or minors accompanied by a responsible adult
2. Normal, age-appropriate vital signs
3. Alert and oriented to person, place, time and event or otherwise baseline mental status according to caregiver
4. Skin that is pink, warm and dry
5. Does not require continuous monitoring (cardiac monitoring, breathing treatment, etc...)
6. IV access, if established, with saline lock or TKO only. No medication can be in the IV bag.

At no time will a critical patient be without ALS care. BLS personnel shall continue documentation of patient care until patient care transfers to ED medical staff in accordance with *Ambulance Destination Decision Policies and Procedures*, Appendix 4.

Any deterioration of patient care after ALS to BLS handoff will have a quality review conducted by the ground ambulance provider and a copy of the findings forwarded to the Division.