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	<u>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</u>		Draft Date:	01/08/01
	Off-Duty Provision of ALS by Sacramento County Accredited EMT-P's		Effective:	12/01/09
			Revised:	05/14/09
			Review:	05/01/11

EMS Medical Director

Chief, Emergency Medical Services

I. INTENT:


To explicitly authorize the functioning of Sacramento County Accredited Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedics (EMT-P) while off-duty and delineate the drugs and equipment they are authorized to possess while off-duty. This policy applies to all prescription drugs and medical devices labeled “for sale by or on the authorization of a licensed physician.” It does not apply to prescription drugs and devices for which the EMT-P has a valid prescription for personal use from their physician.

II. AUTHORITY:

- A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Ch. 4, Art. 1, §1797.220; Ch. 5, §1798(a,b) and §1798.2.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Ch. 4, Art. 2, §100145 and §100147.

III. POLICY – Off-Duty Provision of ALS Care:

- A. Accredited Sacramento County EMT-Ps are explicitly authorized to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) while off-duty. This includes the use of automatic and manual defibrillators where available.
- B. Nothing in this policy shall require a Sacramento County Accredited EMT-P to provide ALS while off-duty.
- C. If an off-duty EMT-P chooses to provide assistance to a patient already under the care of Sacramento County ALS personnel, it shall be at the request of, and coordinated by, the on-duty EMT-P providing patient care. If only Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel are on scene, assistance may be provided only at the request of the Incident Commander.
- D. Overall patient care will remain the responsibility of the on-duty ALS personnel except at the specific request of the on-duty EMT-P responsible for patient care and with the concurrence of the off-duty EMT-P.
- E. In the situation where no Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel are in attendance, the off-duty EMT-P may render BLS and ALS care within their

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capabilities and available equipment until arrival of on-duty ALS personnel. Transfer of patient care will then be made to the on-duty EMT-P.

F. Transfer of care policy 5010 does not apply in this situation to the off-duty EMT-P.

IV. **POLICY – Off-Duty Possession of Drugs and Medical Devices:**

A. Accredited Sacramento County EMT-Ps are authorized under this policy to possess advanced airway devices and adjuncts including laryngoscopes and endotracheal tubes while off-duty.

B. **ALL** ALS drugs, and all other devices, are **NOT** authorized for off-duty possession, by a EMT-P except under paragraph B(1):

1. All EMT-P's whose employer requires them to possess ALS supplies off-duty may apply to the Sacramento County EMS Medical Director for authorization to possess drugs and other medical devices off-duty. Simply "to be ready for an emergency" is not a sufficient reason for off-duty possession of drugs and medical devices. This application must describe the clear necessity for, and the circumstances under which, the drugs and/or medical devices will be used by the off-duty EMT-P as well as the reason(s) why this need cannot be met by other EMS resources in the county. The application must list the specific drugs and/or medical devices requested to be possessed off-duty. This application must be accompanied by a letter of support from the EMT-P's employer clearly describing the situation requiring the EMT-P to carry drugs and devices off-duty.
2. If the Sacramento County EMS Medical Director concurs in the need for off-duty possession of drugs and/or medical devices s/he will issue a specific authorization for the EMT-P to possess ALS drugs and medical devices off-duty under this policy. This authorization must be renewed every 36 months and automatically expires upon termination of the EMT-P's employment. If the new employment situation of the EMT-P requires off-duty possession of drugs and medical devices, a new application is required.
3. Off-duty EMT-Ps will identify themselves by presenting their Sacramento County EMT-P Accreditation card upon request.

C. Off-duty possession by EMT-Ps of controlled substances is explicitly prohibited under this policy.

D. Drugs or medical devices not required under a current Sacramento County treatment protocol are **NOT** authorized for off-duty possession under this policy.