Central DuPage Emergency Medical Services System

Definition of ALS and BLS Services

INTRODUCTION AND	EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR:
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PURPOSE:

To define Medical Services rendered prior to initiation of in-hospital patient care.

To define and differentiate between Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) care.

POLICY:

"Prehospital care means those emergency medical services rendered to emergency patients for analytic, resuscitative, stabilizing or preventive purposes, precedent to and during transportation of such patients to hospitals."

A. BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

Basic Life Support (BLS) Services – a basic level of pre-hospital and inter-hospital emergency care and non-emergency medical care that includes airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), control of shock and bleeding and splinting of fractures, as outlined in a Basic Life Support National Curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation.

B. ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services – an advanced level of pre-hospital and inter-hospital emergency care and non-emergency medical care that includes basic life support care, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, electrocardiography, intravenous therapy, administration of medications, drugs and solutions, use of adjunctive medical devices, trauma care, and other authorized techniques and procedures as outlined in the Advanced Life Support National Curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation.