



CENTRAL DUPAGE HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM
POLICY & PROCEDURES

TITLE: VEHICLE SERVICE LEVEL / IN-FIELD CHANGES

SECTION: LEGAL

POLICY NUMBER: C-15

APPROVED BY: DR. STEVE GRAHAM EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01 JULY 2018

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PURPOSE: To establish guidelines on the process of upgrading a level of care within the Central DuPage Hospital Emergency Medical Services System (CDHEMSS).

POLICY: Vehicle licensure level is approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the CDHEMSS. Vehicles shall operate at the level to which they are licensed / approved by IDPH and the CDHEMSS is prior notified. Situations in which the licensed vehicle may operate outside its pre-approved level include:

1. Emergent conditions in which patient safety would be compromised
 - a. Vehicle failure
 - i. If the initial ambulance on the scene has a mechanical malfunction, and the nearest available ambulance is a license level lower than the initial, equipment and personnel may be moved into the lower licensed unit. This only applies if the on-scene crew feels that a delay in transport, or awaiting an equally licensed ambulance would cause a worse patient outcome.
 - b. Critical care patient
 - i. If the patient has been evaluated by a critical care crew, and the patient's condition is deteriorating, the critical care crew may accompany the ALS crew with their necessary additional equipment in the ALS ambulance.
2. Non-urgent vehicle licensure level changes
 - a. A licensed vehicle within the CDHEMSS may be upgraded from BLS to ALS when the following condition(s) are met:
 - i. The system has performed an ALS inspection
 - ii. If the change will be greater than 10 days, IDPH will need to be notified by use of a System Modification Form
 - b. A licensed vehicle within the CDHEMSS may be downgraded from ALS to BLS when the following condition(s) are met:
 - i. All ALS equipment, including medications have been removed
 - ii. If the change will be greater than 10 days, IDPH / CDHEMSS shall be notified.

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