

	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	2103.11
	<u>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</u> Off-Duty Provision of ALS by Sacramento County Accredited Paramedics	Initial Date:	01/08/01
		Last Approved Date:	06/09/20
		Effective Date:	07/01/23
		Next Review Date:	06/01/24

 EMS Medical Director

 EMS Administrator

Purpose:

- A. To explicitly authorize the functioning of Sacramento County Accredited Paramedic while off-duty and delineated 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 Paramedic has a valid prescription for personal use from their physician.

Authority:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Policy – Off-Duty Provision of ALS Care:

- A. Accredited Sacramento County Paramedics 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 Paramedic to provide ALS while off-duty
- C. If an off-duty Paramedic 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 Paramedic 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 Paramedic responsible for patient care and with the concurrence of the off-duty Paramedic.
- E. In the situation where no Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel are in attendance, the off-duty Paramedic may render BLS and ALS care within their capabilities and available equipment until arrival of on-duty ALS personnel. Transfer of patient care will then be made to the on-duty Paramedic.
- F. Transfer of care policy 5010 does not apply in this situation to the off-duty Paramedic.

Off-Duty Possession of Drugs and Medical Devices:

- A. Accredited Sacramento County Paramedics 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 Paramedic except under paragraph B (1):
 - 1. All Paramedics 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 Paramedic 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 Paramedic’s employer clearly describing the situation requiring the Paramedic 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 Paramedic to possess ALS drugs and medical devices off-duty under this policy. This authorization must be renewed every thirty six (36) months and automatically expires upon termination of the Paramedic’s employment/accreditation or when an employee changes employers. If the new employment situation of the Paramedic requires off-duty possession of drugs and medical devices, a new application is required.
 - 3. Off-duty Paramedics will identify themselves by presenting their Sacramento County Paramedic Accreditation card upon request.
- C. Off-duty possession of controlled substances by Paramedics 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.