



# CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD

## Clinical Review and Training

### Policies and Procedures for ALS Members

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines for the collection, release, and skills maintenance of ALS providers. This shall serve to provide a consistent process for ALS providers to follow.

#### I. ALS Classes and Release Processes

The Clinical Review and Training Committee (CRAT) does not want to discourage anyone from furthering their education as a care provider; however its members want to stress the importance of strong basic life support skills. Therefore, a provider may take an Enhanced, Intermediate, or Paramedic class at anytime, but there will be time restrictions for when they may begin collecting for release as an ALS technician. The Clinical Review and Training Committee has set the following timelines for when the provider may begin collecting ALS calls once they are certified. For the most part these are minimum time periods that have been established. It does not guarantee that a provider will begin collecting or be released within those specified times. Upon receipt of their ALS certification card, the provider must get the approval of the Clinical Review and Training Committee to begin the collection process. The Committee reserves the right to extend or deny the collecting time based on the provider's clinical performance, comfort level and/or their preceptor's recommendation.

- a. EMT-Basic to Enhanced- The provider must have been a released AIC for a *minimum* of 6 months (*not including probationary time*) in order to begin collecting for release as an Enhanced technician. The provider will follow the Enhanced guideline, using the point system and the Clinical Thought Process Evaluation, to collect calls for release. There is a *minimum* collecting time of (8) 12 hour shifts for release as an Enhanced technician.
- b. EMT-Basic to Intermediate/Paramedic- The provider wishing to go from EMT-Basic to Intermediate must have been a released AIC for a minimum of 6 months (*not including probationary time*). The provider will follow the I/PM guideline, using the point system and the Clinical Thought Process Evaluation, to collect calls for release. There is a *minimum* collecting time of (12) 12-hour shifts for release as an Intermediate/Paramedic technician.
- c. EMT-Enhanced to Intermediate/Paramedic- The provider must be an Enhanced for a *minimum* of 6 months (to include collecting time) in order to begin collecting calls for release as an I/PM technician. The provider will follow the I/PM guideline, using the point system and Clinical Thought Process Evaluation, to collect calls for release. There is a *minimum* collecting time of (12) 12-hour shifts for release as an Intermediate/Paramedic technician.
- d. Any new CARS member that is currently released as an ALS provider at another agency *within* the TJEMS region shall be considered released at that level upon completion of the mandatory observation time.
- e. In the event that an unreleased ALS provider is without a preceptor and



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feels their patient needs ALS intervention, they should ask ECC to tone for ALS (either trauma or medic). If there is a significant delay or it is unlikely that a released ALS provider will be able to assist, the unreleased provider may contact medical command and ask permission to begin ALS. At no time should an unreleased provider begin ALS care without the permission of on-line medical command, unless immediate intervention is necessary for a fatal injury or illness. Two unreleased ALS providers do not equal a released one. They shall follow the same guidelines as one unreleased provider.

#### II. ALS Providers From Outside the TJEMS Region

- a. Should a provider choose to take an ALS class outside of the TJEMS region, they will follow the same timelines as set forth in the above section.
- b. If the provider has taken an ALS class outside the TJEMS regions, the provider must meet with the CARS OMD as well as one of the UVA Pre-Hospital representatives. The OMD will meet with the technician for an oral/practical test. The UVA Pre-Hospital representative will go over important recertification information, TJEMS ALS protocols and hospital procedures.
- c. Any new CARS member that is currently released as an ALS provider at an emergent based agency, managing unanticipated emergencies, outside of the TJEMS regions shall go through an abbreviated collection process following their mandatory observation time. The provider will complete (4) 12-hour shifts with an approved preceptor, meet with the CARS OMD and UVA Pre-hospital representatives as outlined in Section IIb, and provide of letter of endorsement from current OMD. The Clinical Review and Training Committee will release providers on an individual basis, taking into consideration years of experience and references from his/her previous agency.

#### III. Current or Past CARS ALS Providers with brief or prolonged Absence

- a. Any current CARS ALS provider with a current state certification previously released at that level, who has been inactive for 90 consecutive days or more shall re-enter the collection process of (4) 12-hour shifts with an approved preceptor. The collection period will allow the provider a chance to review new devices, practices, and guidelines. CRAT will conduct final review toward release.
- b. Any past CARS ALS provider with a current state certification previously released at that level, who has been absent for two years or more shall complete the mandatory observation time. The provider shall re-enter the collection process of (4) 12-hour shifts with an approved preceptor, so long as their past association was in good standing. The collection period will allow the provider a chance to review new devices, practices, and guidelines. CRAT will conduct final review toward release.



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#### IV. Skills Maintenance and Certifications

CARS ALS providers are must successfully complete a minimum of two (2) skills proficiency evaluations (skills drills) each calendar year, and may not miss consecutive skills drills, to maintain active ALS privileges. ALS providers are also responsible for maintaining basic certifications associated with level of practice.

- a. An ALS provider's privileges are suspended if the provider:
  1. Misses more than one skills drill during the calendar year
  2. Misses consecutive skills drills
  3. Fails the prescribed testing at the skills drills
  
- b. An ALS provider will be exempt from TJEMS skills drill if the provider:
  1. Is enrolled in an ALS class that increases their level of training during course dates.
  2. Satisfactory completion of a skills drill at a regional EMS agency under the medical direction of the CARS OMD.
  3. Satisfactory completion of a skills drill at an established EMS (ground or air) agency with prior approval of the CARS CRAT committee and subsequent written confirmation of satisfactory completion from that agency's medical director or training officer forwarded to the CARS OMD and Training Officer.
  
- c. An ALS provider is responsible for maintaining state certification in addition to the following:
  1. EMT-Enhanced Provider
    - a. CPR for the *Healthcare Provider*
  2. EMT-Intermediate/Paramedic
    - a. CPR for the *Healthcare Provider*
    - b. ACLS
    - c. PALS