	<b>COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO</b> <b>OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	Document #	2103.04
	<b>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</b>  <b>Off-Duty Provision of ALS by Sacramento County Accredited Paramedics</b>	Page:	1 of 2
		Draft Date:	01/08/01
		Effective:	12/01/07
		Revised:	05/10/07
		Review:	05/01/09

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EMS Medical Director

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Chief, Emergency Medical Services

**I. INTENT:**


To explicitly authorize the functioning of Sacramento County Accredited Paramedics 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 paramedic 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.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Ch. 4, Art. 2, §100147.

**III. 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 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 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.

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

**IV. POLICY – 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 County 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 36 months and automatically expires upon termination of the paramedic’s employment. 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 EMT-P Accreditation card upon request.

C. Off-duty possession by paramedics 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.