

POLICY:	200.18 INITIATION OF ALS CARE		
OWNER:	MANAGER OF EMS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2024			ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16
DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	

I. Purpose:

To standardize guidelines in order to identify the situations when advanced life support (ALS) care should be initiated by Paramedics or Pre-Hospital Registered Nurses (PHRN) transporting in ALS vehicles.

II. Policy:

A. Advanced life support care should be initiated according to the following guidelines:

1. Adult patients with abnormal vital signs, regardless of complaints:

- a.** Pulse <60 or >130 BPM or irregular
- b.** Respiratory rate <10 or >28 breaths per minute or irregular
- c.** Systolic blood pressure <90 or >200 mmHg

2. Pediatric patients with abnormal vital signs, regardless of complaints

AGE	PULSE	SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE	RESPIRATORY RATE
Neonate (0 – 30 days)	100 – 180	50 – 90	30 – 60
Infant (31 days – < 1 yr)	100 – 160	60 – 100	30 – 60
Toddler (1 yr – < 3 yrs)	90 – 150	70 – 105	24 – 40
Pre-School (3 yrs – < 5 yrs)	80 – 140	75 – 105	22 – 34
School Age (5 yrs – 12 yrs)	70 – 120	80 – 120	18 – 30
Adolescent (> 12 yrs)	60 – 100	90 – 120	12 – 20

The above chart reflects age appropriate parameters, American Academy of Pediatrics.

3. Any patient with a potentially life-threatening or limb-threatening condition, which exists or might develop during transport. Examples of situations in which ALS care is usually indicated include but are not limited to:

- a.** Altered mental status and/or unconsciousness
- b.** Chest pain, palpitations
- c.** Seizures
- d.** Neurologic deficit/stroke, syncope or near syncope, abdominal pain
- e.** Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- f.** Vaginal bleeding
- g.** Complications of pregnancy or emergency childbirth
- h.** GI bleeding
- i.** Trauma
- j.** Overdose/poisoning

