

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Administrative Requirements Manual**

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Authorization:

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A/R Title: Cancellation of ALS

**Purpose:** To clarify for EMS services and their EMTs, in the context of their duties under 105 CMR 170.355, the procedures for when:

- On-scene Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel may cancel Advanced Life Support (ALS) that has been dispatched but has not established direct patient contact, and
- Licensed health care facilities and other authority (see section II, below) may cancel ALS or BLS that is responding or has established direct patient contact.

**I. Cancellation of ALS by BLS: Procedure**

A. Clinical Criteria: Affiliate hospital medical director and/or ambulance service medical director shall establish written guidelines for use by BLS in determining when it is appropriate to cancel ALS. BLS shall follow these guidelines.

B. BLS must:

1. Complete an appropriate patient assessment and provide treatment in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols;
2. Having determined there is no foreseeable need for ALS based on the service's written guidelines, or determining that the patient can be transported to an appropriate health care facility in less time than it would take ALS to arrive on scene, or intercept BLS during transport, BLS may cancel ALS;
3. Document their assessment and treatment of the patient on their trip record; and
4. Document the cancellation and reason(s) for cancellation of ALS on their trip record.

C. ALS must:

1. Document the cancellation by BLS on their trip (or dispatch) record. (See 105 CMR 170.020, "Trip Record," and 105 CMR 170.345 (B) for trip record requirements.) ALS should consider all available information when accepting a BLS cancellation.

**II. Licensed Health Care Facilities and Other Authority: Cancellation of ALS or BLS Responding OR On Scene**

Licensed Health Care Facilities: A facility licensed to provide health care services may, on the authority of its license, cancel ALS or BLS that is responding or has established direct patient contact when the licensed health care facility assumes **full responsibility** for the cancellation decision. ALS or BLS so cancelled would have no further obligation to respond, assess, treat or transport. EMTs must document the cancellation by the licensed facility on their trip (or dispatch) record.

Other Policies and A/Rs: See A/R 5-515/Appendix C of the Statewide Treatment Protocols, "Withholding and Cessation of Resuscitation by EMTs"; A/R 5-620, "ALS Transfer of Calls to BLS," and September 27, 2002 Advisory, "Treat and Release; Patient Refusals," for patient refusals.