Critical Care Scene Response

Designation of Condition: Guidelines for ground critical care scene responses and rendezvous

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All Providers:

The ALS crew will NOT delay transport from the scene to await the arrival of critical care. Field providers should always use their best judgment.

Any ALS crew responding to an emergency request for service within Bernalillo County may contact their respective dispatch to request a Critical Care Team (CCT) unit rendezvous and/or response if a patient requires potentially life-saving interventions that cannot be performed by the ALS crew. This includes Rapid Sequence Airways, as well as the administration of medications outside of the ALS scope or those not carried by 911 response units.

In the event that the patient's condition warrants immediate transport, the ALS crew on scene will request a rendezvous from critical care; in this situation, the crew will contact the CCT dispatch immediately, if they are available. The CCT team will arrange a rendezvous point with the transporting ALS crew. Upon arrival at the rendezvous point, the CCT paramedics will join the transporting crew in the back of the original transport unit, bringing any anticipated equipment with them. The benefits of the rendezvous must outweigh the risks of the potential delay to definitive care.

The CCT team will receive a turnover report from attending ALS crews upon arrival at patient's side, and will then take over responsibility for patient care and direct others on scene and/or throughout the duration of transport.
When requested by an ALS crew, the CCT team will utilize their current CPG's, online medical control, and MCEP consultations to guide patient care decisions. If the EMS Consortium is also present on scene, the CCT team will work in collaboration with the Consortium MD to provide care with the patient's best interest in mind.
All rendezvous/responses will enter the medical director's QI process.

The CCT unit may be canceled at any time by the paramedic in charge or the Incident Commander when deemed necessary.