Quality Improvement Office

A lack of clearly defined expectations with regards to ALS to BLS downgrades has previously been acknowledged by the EMIHS Section and the Office of Medical Oversight (OMO).

EMIHS staff and our Medical Director, in close collaboration with our Medical Review Committee (MRC), has since evaluated the existing downgrade process to identify opportunities for injecting added and needed clarity, bolster our clinician's capabilities to make better decisions, and further improve pre-hospital care we provide our patients. The net result is our piloting an enhanced ALS to BLS Downgrade process beginning November 11, 2019 and continuing for sixty (60) days.

The Pilot

The worksites involved are Stations 5, 18, and Rescue 2 – all shifts (A, B, C, D, and V).

The pilot framework provides:

- A clear definition of an ALS to BLS downgrade;
- A defined process that ensures appropriate consideration of pertinent and critical medical factors and requires communication between the charge ALS and BLS providers;
- A clear delineation as to when clinicians are expected to engage the ALS to BLS downgrade process; and
- A decision support tool (an eMEDS checklist) designed to assist our clinicians in determining which patients are appropriate for downgrade.

Worksites (and Personnel) Outside the Pilot

You may find yourself interacting or running calls with clinicians from pilot worksites. They may ask you to participate in the "downgrade timeout" and to complete the checklist with them. Both are fairly intuitive and we highly encourage you participate with the requesting clinician, ALS or BLS, engaging the pilot process.

If you would like to see the pilot checklist in eMEDS, it is available on the Tech Training Blog under Completing an ALS to BLS Downgrade Checklist in Elite.

Questions regarding this pilot should be directed to the MCFRS Quality Improvement Officer.

ALS to BLS Downgrade Pilot
November 1, 2019