

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

B-10 INDICATIONS FOR ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

ALS/ILS

- ALS should be initiated according to the following guidelines.
 - Patient with abnormal vital signs - regardless of complaints:
 - Adults:
 - Pulse < 60 or > 130 or:
 - Irregular Respiration < 10 or > 28 or
 - Irregular Systolic Blood Pressure < 90 or > 200.
 - Pediatrics:
 - Refer to pediatric reference policy.
- Any patient with a potentially life-threatening condition which exists or might develop during transport. Examples of situations in which ALS care is usually indicated include, but not limited to:
 - Altered mental status and/or unconsciousness
 - Chest pain
 - Full arrest
 - Seizures
 - Neurologic deficit / stroke
 - Syncope or near-syncope.
 - Abdominal pain
 - GI bleeding
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Vaginal bleeding
 - Complication of pregnancy or emergency childbirth
 - Multiple organ/system trauma
 - Overdose/poisoning
 - Hypothermia
 - Near drowning
 - Hypovolemia without signs of trauma
- In an uncooperative patient, the requirements to initiate assessment and full ALS service may be waived in favor of assuring that the patient is transported to an appropriate medical facility. Document clearly the reasons ALS was aborted.
- When in doubt, ALS the patient.
- Never discontinue ALS once initiated unless prior approval by Medical Control.
- When in doubt, contact medical control. Remember that ALS / ILS care is based on patient assessment, history and complaint, not whether an ALS procedure was initiated.