



**SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**

EMS POLICY

102

Effective:

April 2023

Approval: EMS Director
Travis Kusman, MPH

Signed:

Approval: EMS Medical Director
Greg Gilbert, MD

Signed:

APPROVED ABBREVIATIONS

I. PURPOSE

This policy defines the abbreviations used in EMS policies and clinical protocols.

II. ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
>	Is greater than
<	Is less than
≥	Is greater than or equal to
≤	Is less than or equal to
ACLS	Advanced Cardiopulmonary Life Support
AED	Automated External Defibrillator
ALS	Advanced Life Support
AMA	Against Medical Advice
AMI	Acute Myocardial Infarction
AMS	Altered Mental Status
APS	Adult Protective Services
BHP	Base Hospital Physician
BLS	Basic Life Support
BP	Blood Pressure
BPM	Beats Per Minute
BSA	Body Surface Area
BSI	Body Substance Isolation
BVM	Bag Valve Mask
CAB	Circulation, Airway, Breathing
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure
CHO	UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland
CHP	California Highway Patrol
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CPS	Child Protective Services
CT	Computed Tomography
CVA	Cerebral Vascular Accident
DNR	Do Not Resuscitate





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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
ECG	Electrocardiogram
ED	Emergency Department
EHR	Electronic Health Record
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EMTALA	Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act
EOA	Exclusive Operating Area
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
EtCO ₂	End Tidal Carbon Dioxide
ETT	Endotracheal Tube
GCS	Glasgow Coma Score
H ₂ O	Water
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HR	Heart Rate (as depicted on an ECG) – not to be confused with pulse rate
IC	Incident Commander
ICS	Incident Command System
IFT	Inter-facility Transfer
IM	Intramuscular
IN	Intranasal
IO	Intraosseous
IV	Intravenous
IVP	Intravenous Piggyback
LOC	Level of Consciousness
MCI	Multi Casualty Incident
MHOAC	Medical/Health Operational Area Coordinator
MOI	Mechanism of injury
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NREMT	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
NS	Normal Saline
NTG	Nitroglycerin



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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
PALS	Pediatric Advanced Life Support
PMS	Pulse, motor, and sensation
PO	Periorally
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPV	Positive Pressure Ventilation
PR	Pulse rate (manually obtained) – not to be confused with heart rate
PSAP	Primary Service Answering Point (9-1-1)
QA	Quality Assurance
QI	Quality Improvement
RIVP	Rapid Intravenous Push
RN	Registered Nurse
ROSC	Return of Spontaneous Circulation
RR	Respiratory Rate
SBP	Systolic Blood Pressure
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
SIVP	Slow Intravenous Push
SL	Sublingual
SMR	Spinal Motion Restriction
SOB	Shortness of Breath
SpO ₂	Pulse Oximeter Oxygen Concentration
SC	Subcutaneous
SRC	STEMI Receiving Center
STEMI	ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction
TKO	To Keep Open
V-Fib	Ventricular Fibrillation
V-Tach	Ventricular Tachycardia