

# To Downgrade or not to Downgrade? “That is the Question”

CCCEMSA POLICY 1002 AND AMR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SOP 206

A paramedic **MAY NOT** downgrade care of a patient to a BLS unit if any crew member on the BLS unit does not feel comfortable caring for that patient, feels that patient may exceed their scope of practice, or presents with any of the following:

- Any patient who has a **reasonable potential** to require ALS interventions or monitoring
- Any patient under the age of 15-years-old, regardless of complaint
- Any obstetrics patient at or greater than 20 weeks gestation, regardless of their complaint
- Any obstetrics patient, regardless of gestation, with an obstetrics-related complaint (e.g. abdominal pain, back pain, or discharge).
- Any patient with a language barrier between patient and attendant
- Any patient with an altered or diminished mental capacity who is not capable of making decisions for themselves
- Any patient with a complaint of syncope, chest pain or headache