Independent Advanced Life Support (ALS) Study

Scope of Work

**Purpose**

The study will assess the optimal number (or range) of ALS agencies in King County, from a clinical outcome and financial perspective, in order to meet the region’s current and future needs. The findings from the study will be submitted to the EMS Advisory Task Force, Regional Policy Committee, and King County Council by September 12, 2016. The outcome of this effort will help inform future levy planning processes.

**Objective**

A study will be conducted to validate the optimal number (or range) of ALS agencies in the County, and the appropriate number (or range) of units operated per agency. The study will also develop a regional process for responding to any changes to the current ALS agency configuration (ex. if an ALS agency relinquishes oversight).

The evaluation and recommendations must recognize that the current EMS system provides excellent patient care, and any potential recommendation must ensure the following:

* No deterioration in the provision of medical care or patient outcomes;
* The system remains a tiered, integrated, regional system;
* The delivery of patient care is derived from the highest standards of medical training based on scientific evidence with continued oversight by EMS physicians; and
* The system sustains its focus on operational and financial effectiveness and efficiencies.

Elements to be evaluated include impacts on cost, regional governance and management, agency operations, and medical outcomes. The study should consider how operational changes may impact the rest of the tiered system, and identify any advantages or additional benefits to being an ALS agency (examples: BLS services, public image/perception).