



# San Benito County Emergency Medical Services Agency

## APPARENT LIFE-THREATENING EVENT (ALTE)

Policy : S2-P  
Effective : May 1, 2010  
Reviewed : May 1, 2010

### **I. BLS Treatment Protocol:**

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000).
- B. Prepare for transport / transfer of care.

### **II. ALS Treatment Protocol:**

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000).
- B. Refer to appropriate protocol/s as needed.
- C. Transport.
- D. Contact Base Station.

### **Notes: BLS & ALS**

- An Apparent Life threatening Event (ALTE) was formally known as a “near miss-SIDS” episode.
- An ALTE is an episode that is frightening to the observer (may think infant has died) and involves some combination of:
  1. apnea
  2. color change
  3. marked change in muscle tone (limpness, loss of tone)
  4. choking or gagging.
- Usually occurs in infants <12 months old. However, any child <2 years who exhibits symptoms of apnea may be considered an ALTE.
- 50% have a possible identifiable etiology (e.g. abuse, SIDS, swallowing dysfunction, infection, bronchitis, seizures, CNS anomalies, tumors, cardiac disease, chronic respiratory disease, upper airway obstruction, metabolic abnormalities, anemia, etc.)
- Gather accurate history of the episode, including severity, duration, provocation, as well as an accurate patient history.
- **If the parent or guardian refuses medical care/transport, Base Station MD contact is mandatory prior to completing a refusal of medical care.**