



POLICY NO:	500
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MEDICAL CONTROL AT THE SCENE/TRANSFER OF CARE

Purpose: To establish guidelines for medical control at the scene of a medical emergency.

Authority: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 & 1798.6. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100169.

Policy: Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in that licensed and/or certified health care professional, which may include any paramedic or other prehospital emergency medical personnel, at the scene of an emergency who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of the emergency.

Procedure: The following shall be utilized to determine authority for medical control on scene:

- A. Prehospital care personnel, certified and/or accredited in Santa Barbara County, have authority for health care management in the following ascending order:
1. EMT-1
 2. EMT-Optional Scope/Advanced
 3. EMT-P, under the medical control from a Base Hospital physician or under Santa Barbara County Policies, or who is providing care under the direct order of a physician.
 4. When there is a flight nurse on scene the medical control will be with the flight nurse.
 5. The first EMT-P on scene assumes initial medical control of the patient. Transfer of care will take place at a mutually agreed upon time after a verbal report is given by the first responding EMT-P and the receiving EMT-P accepts the patient. If the patient condition requires the continued attendance of the first responder EMT-P during transport the first responding EMT-P may maintain medical authority throughout the call up to and including transition of care to the receiving facility staff.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Nancy A. Lapolla in blue ink.

Nancy A. Lapolla, EMS Director

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Angelo Salvucci, MD, EMS Medical Director