



# Health & Social Services Department

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

POLICY MEMORANDUM #5100

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/01/92

APPROVED BY:

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### SUBJECT: AUTHORITY FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCY SCENE MANAGEMENT

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE, DIVISION 2.5, 1798.6, 1797.90, 1797.94, 1797.182, 1797.188, 1797.204, 1797.220

#### PURPOSE/POLICY:

To define the authority for medical emergency scene management.

#### I. AUTHORITY FOR PATIENT HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in such licensed or certified health care professionals, which may include any paramedic or other prehospital emergency personnel at the scene of the emergency, who is the 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 an emergency.

#### II. MANAGEMENT OF THE SCENE

Notwithstanding the above, authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority. The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult with emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks (Health and Safety Code 1798.6).

### **III. EMERGENCY CRIME SCENE ENTRANCE**

Emergency personnel will not enter an emergency crime scene until appropriate public safety personnel have arrived and secured the scene to make entry reasonably safe.

### **IV. MEDICAL MANAGEMENT AT THE SCENE**

Medical management at the scene of a medical emergency includes:

- A. Medical evaluation
- B. Medical aspects of extrication and all movement of the patient(s).
- C. Medical care
- D. Patient destination
- E. Transport code
- F. Medical consultation with a Base Hospital.

### **V. ORDER OF RESPONSIBILITY**

Responsibility for emergency medical management is based on the following order as personnel arrive on the scene:

- A. Law enforcement personnel
  - B. First Responder (First Aid Certified)
  - C. First Responder EMT-1
  - D. Transport Unit EMT-1
  - E. Non-transporting paramedic EMT-P or Transport Unit EMT-P that arrives on-scene first.
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