

COUNTY OF VENTURA
HEALTH CARE AGENCYEMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy Title: MEDICAL CONTROL AT THE SCENE: EMS PREHOSPITAL PERSONNEL		Policy Number: 601
APPROVED: Administration:  Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic		Date: June 1, 2024
APPROVED: Medical Director:  Daniel Shepherd, MD		Date: June 1, 2024
Origination Date:	October 1, 1993	
Date Revised:	April 11, 2024	Effective Date: June 1, 2024
Date Last Reviewed:	April 11, 2024	
Review Date:	April 30, 2027	

- I. PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for medical control at the scene of a medical emergency.
- II. AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220, and 1798.6
- III. 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.
(Health and Safety Code, Section 1796(a))
- IV. PROCEDURE: The following shall be utilized to determine authority for medical control on scene:
 - A. Prehospital care personnel, certified and/or accredited in Ventura County, have authority for health care management in the following ascending order:
 1. EMT
 2. Paramedic, operating in accordance with established Ventura County EMS Agency policies and procedures, under medical control from a BH, or who is providing care under the direct order of a physician on scene.
 - a. This does not allow the paramedic to receive orders from medical personnel at the scene who are not MD's or DO's. This order is determined by training hours, scope of practice, and available supplies and equipment.

3. The first paramedic on scene assumes initial medical control of the patient. Medical Control of the patient and the best course of patient care will be determined by paramedics on scene, in conjunction with the base hospital MICN/base physician (when indicated). In all cases, transfer of medical control and/or patient care will be done in a coordinated fashion.