

COUNTY OF VENTURA
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy Title: Medical Control At Scene, Private Physician/Physician on Scene		Policy Number: 703
APPROVED:		Date: January 3, 2023
Administration:	Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	
APPROVED:		Date: January 3, 2023
Medical Director:	Daniel Shepherd, M.D.	
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- I. Purpose: To establish guidelines for medical control of patient care at the scene of a medical emergency. To assist the paramedic who arrives on the scene of a patient who is being attended by a California licensed physician.
- II. Authority: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 & 1798.6. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100175.
- III. Policy: paramedics shall use the following procedure to determine on-scene authority for patient care.
- IV. Procedure:
 - A. When a bystander at the scene of a medical emergency identifies himself/herself as a physician, the paramedic shall:
 - 1. Obtain proper identification from the individual (preferably California licensure as M.D., or D.O.) and document name on the PCR.
 - 2. Present the CMA card "Note to Physician on Involvement with AEMTs and EMT-Ps (Paramedic)" to him/her to read and choose level of involvement.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA



California Medical Association

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN ON INVOLVEMENT WITH AEMTs AND EMT-Ps (PARAMEDIC)

A life support team AEMT or EMT-P (Paramedic) operates under standard policies and procedures developed by the local EMS agency and approved by their Medical Director under the Authority of Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The drugs they carry and procedures they can do are restricted by law and local policy.

If you want to assist, this can only be done through one of the alternatives listed on the back of this card. These alternatives have been endorsed by CMA, State EMS Authority, CCLHO, and BMQA.

Assistance rendered in the endorsed fashion, without compensation, is covered by the protection of the "Good Samaritan Code" (see Business and Professions Code, Sections 2144, 2395-2398 and Health and Safety Code, Section 1799.104).

ENDORSED ALTERNATIVES FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT

After identifying yourself by name as a physician licensed in the state of California, and if requested, showing proof of identity, you may choose to do one of the following:

1. Offer your assistance with another pair of eyes, hands, or suggestions, but let the life support team remain under the base hospital control; or,
2. Request to talk to the base station physician and directly offer your medical advice and assistance; or,
3. Take total responsibility for the care given by the life support team and physically accompany the patient until the patient arrives at a hospital and responsibility is assumed by the receiving physician. In addition, you must sign for all instructions given in accordance with local policy and procedure. (Whenever possible, remain in contact with the base station physician.)

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OSP 12 126336

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3. Contact the Base Hospital and advise them that there is a physician on scene.
4. Determine the level of involvement the physician wishes to have and inform the Base Hospital.

- B. If the physician chooses not to assume patient care, the Base Hospital shall retain medical control and the paramedic's will utilize the physician as an "assistant" in patient care activities.
- C. If the physician chooses to take medical control, the paramedic's will instruct the physician in radio operation procedures and have the physician at the scene communicate with the Base Hospital physician. The Base Hospital physician may do either of the following:
 - 1. Retain medical control, but consider and/or utilize suggestions offered by the physician at the scene.
 - 2. Request that the physician at the scene function in an observer capacity only.
 - 3. Delegate medical control to the physician at the scene.
 - 4. If the physician at the scene has been given medical control by the Base Hospital physician, the paramedic shall:
 - a. Make ALS equipment and supplies available to the physician and offer assistance.
 - b. Ensure that the physician accompany the patient in the ambulance to the hospital, and signs for all instructions and medical care given.
 - c. Keep the Base Hospital advised.
- D. The paramedic, while under the direction of a physician at the scene, shall perform only those procedures and administer only those drugs for which he/she is accredited for in Ventura County. Paramedics shall be held accountable and possibly liable for performing a procedure or treatment outside the paramedic scope of practice. If a physician at the scene wishes such a procedure or treatment performed, he/she may perform that procedure. The paramedic should attempt to have the on-site physician call the Base Hospital physician regarding the treatment.
- E. The Base Hospital shall:
 - 1. Speak to the physician on scene, unless a delay would be detrimental to patient care, or the physician is the patient's personal physician, to determine qualification regarding emergency treatment and level of involvement chosen by the physician.
 - 2. Document the physician's intent to assume patient care responsibility.
 - 3. Relinquish patient care to the patient's personal physician, if he/she has arrived after Base Contact has been made and wishes to assume control.

4. In cases where a dispute arises regarding medical care, the ultimate decision as to patient care shall be made by the Base Hospital, except when the personal physician is present.

F. Private Physician on Scene

1. If the private physician is present and assumes responsibility for the patient care, the paramedic shall advise the Base Hospital that the patient is under the care of his/her private medical doctor (PMD) and inform the Base Hospital of the PMD's instructions.
2. The paramedic, while under the direction of a physician at the scene, shall perform only those procedures and administer only those drugs for which he/she is accredited for in Ventura County. Paramedics shall be held accountable and possibly liable for performing a procedure or treatment outside the paramedic scope of practice. If a physician at the scene wishes such a procedure or treatment performed, he/she may perform that procedure. The paramedic should attempt to have the on-site physician call the Base Hospital physician regarding the treatment.