



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: December 1, 2018	
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APPROVED: 		Date: December 1, 2018	
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.
 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.