

Solano County Health & Social Services Department



Mental Health Services
Public Health Services
Substance Abuse Services
Older & Disabled Adult Services

Eligibility Services
Employment Services
Children's Services
Administrative Services

Patrick O. Duterte, Director

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

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POLICY MEMORANDUM 6510

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REVIEWED & APPROVED BY:

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MICHAEL A. FRENN, EMS AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, § 1798

PURPOSE/POLICY:

The intent of this policy is to establish guidelines for determining patient care responsibility at the scene of a medical emergency when a physician is on the scene.

I. IDENTIFICATION/NOTIFICATION OF PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

When a bystander at an emergency scene identifies himself/herself as a physician, the EMT-P will give the individual a "Note to Physician" card, and ask the physician to read it while the EMT-P proceeds with patient assessment.

A. The "Note to Physician" card reads:

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN

A life support team (EMT-II 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 & 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 this 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 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 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, physically accompany the patient until 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).

(REV. 7/88) 88 49638 Provided by the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

- B. Thank the physician for his/her offer of assistance and remain courteous at all times.
- C. Ask the physician which option listed on the card s/he wishes.

II. IF THE PHYSICIAN ON THE SCENE DESIRES TO TAKE OVER PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY

The EMT-P shall:

- A. Ask to see the physician's medical license unless the physician is known to them.
- B. Immediately contact the Base and speak to the Base Hospital Physician.
- C. The EMT-Ps should instruct the physician on-scene in radio operation, if needed, and have that physician speak directly with the Base Hospital Physician.

III. THE BASE HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN MAY:

- A. Request that the physician on the scene function in an observer capacity only.
- B. Retain medical control, but consider suggestions offered by the physician on the scene.
- C. Delegate medical control to the physician on the scene.
 1. EMT-Ps should
 - a. Make ALS equipment and supplies available to the physician and offer assistance.
 - b. Ensure that the physician accompany the patient to the Receiving Hospital in the ambulance.
 - c. Ensure that the physician signs for all instructions and medical care given.
 - d. Keep the Base Hospital advised.
 - e. Complete an EMS Field Advisory Report Form.