



PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

PURPOSE

To define patient care responsibilities when a Physician is on the scene of a medical emergency, and one (1) or more Paramedic personnel are present.

AUTHORITY

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4, Article 1, § 1797.220

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 5, § 1798.2

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

POLICY

- I. It is the policy of the Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency (YEMSA) that a Paramedic encountering a Physician on the scene shall maintain responsibility for patient care unless the Physician assumes responsibility for patient care and accompanies the patient to the hospital.
- II. A Paramedic may assist the patient's Physician provided the Paramedic operates within their approved YEMSA Scope of Practice.

PROCEDURE

- I. Physician is a bystander:
 - A. Take care of patient first.
 - B. Require identification (ID). If needed, use card (see below) provided by State of California.
 - C. If the Physician wishes to do more than offer assistance, s/he must get approval from the Base Hospital.
 - D. If the Physician wishes care given that does not conform to the Paramedic personnel's training, Scope of Practice, and YEMSA protocols, explain to the Physician that their Paramedic license prevents them from doing anything that does not conform to their training, Scope of Practice, YEMSA policies/protocols, and Base Hospital medical control.
 1. The Physician must:
 - a. Assume responsibility for the patient. Provide the care s/he wishes.
 - b. Accompany the patient to the hospital.
 - E. In the event of conflict, follow orders of medical control and document events.
- II. Physician is patient's Physician:
 - A. Require ID, if Physician is unknown to the Paramedic.
 - B. The patient's Physician may administer medication from his/her drug inventory.
 - C. The Paramedic may follow the patient's Physician orders if they do not conflict with the Paramedic's Scope of Practice.
- III. If there is a conflict between patient's Physician orders and the Paramedic's Scope of



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency Policy

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Practice, explain that you can legally only treat within the YEMSA Paramedic's Scope of Practice. Contact medical control and ask patient's Physician to discuss any problem issues with the Base Hospital.

EMSA/CMA PHYSICIAN ON SCENE SAMPLE CARD:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA **cma**
California Medical Association

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN ON INVOLVEMENT WITH EMT-ILs AND EMT-Ps (PARAMEDIC)
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 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 on the back of this card. These alternatives have been endorsed by the 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 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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