

16-0105 – Interaction with Physician or Other Provider

AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 1797.220 and 1799.104 (a).

POLICY

To define the role of a physician or other provider, who responds to the scene of a medical emergency and is not a part of an organized incident response.

BLS/ALS

Physician AT Scene

1. In the event that a physician wants to assist on scene he/she must state name as a physician licensed in the State of California and show proof of identity. **Once identification has been confirmed**, the physician may choose one of the alternatives listed below:
 - a. Offer assistance with another pair of eyes or hands, or offer suggestions, but allow the life support team to remain under base hospital control; **OR**
 - b. Request to talk to the base station physician and directly offer medical advice and assistance; **OR**
 - c. 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 the receiving physician assumes responsibility. In addition, they must sign for all instructions given in accordance with local policy and procedure and whenever possible, remain in contact with the Base Hospital physician.
2. Prehospital personnel have the following responsibilities in the event that a physician is on scene:
 - a. Remain tactful, calm and courteous.
 - b. Give CMA card to physician describing his/her options. Keep cards readily available.
 - c. **The identity of a physician shall be confirmed** if relinquishing the responsibility of patient care.
 - d. Offer assistance to the physician on scene. The EMS provider cannot perform orders given outside normal scope of practice as defined in the Nor-Cal EMS policies.
 - e. Maintain the control of drugs and equipment from the unit, and inform the physician of drug and equipment availability on the unit.
 - f. Make initial contact with the base, and communicate newly implemented plan for scene management.
3. **Conflict Resolution**: In the event that any unresolved conflict arises regarding a patient care issue, the prehospital provider shall contact the Base Hospital physician immediately. The BH physician will have the final authority over medical care to be provided by prehospital responders.
4. Private Physicians - If the patient's private physician intervenes in person or by telephone, the prehospital providers shall inform the patient's physician **SHALL** make BH contact. The **ONLY** time orders shall be taken over the telephone from a physician who is not the BH physician is when determining the pts. DNR status.

Other Providers at Scene

If an EMS provider arrives on scene who is not a part of the incident response, he/she may assist with patient care at the discretion of the senior medical person in charge.

1. **Nor-Cal EMS Certified/Accredited**: If the provider normally functions in the Nor-Cal EMS region, he/she may function within the scope of his/her practice under the direction of the senior medical person in charge of the scene.
 - a. Proof of current certification must be shown to the senior medical person in charge, before the visiting provider may initiate ALS care. If the senior medical person has actual knowledge of the identity and certification status of the visiting provider, it is not necessary to show proof.

- b. If the provider that is not a part of the incident response has a higher level of Cert/Licensure than the response provider AND initiates care beyond the scope of practice of the response provider, the visiting provider must maintain care until the patient is handed over to another provider with the same or higher scope of practice.
2. ***Out of Area Prehospital Provider***: If the visiting provider is not Certified/Accredited in the Nor-Cal EMS region, but shows proof of current licensure/certification in California, he/she may, at the discretion of the response provider, assist and provide care not to exceed the scope of practice of the response provider.
3. ***Out of State Prehospital Provider at Scene***: If the visiting provider is not licensed in the State of California, but shows proof of current licensure from the state he/she practices in, he/she may only provide BLS care. If the host county is in a declared state of local emergency, the visiting provider may, at the discretion of the response provider, assist and provide care not to exceed the scope of practice of the response provider.
4. ***“Other” Medical Personnel (RN, CNA, PA, etc.)***: If visiting medical personnel are not accredited in the prehospital care setting the visiting provider may, at the discretion of the response provider, assist and provide care not to exceed the scope of practice of the response provider.