

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

FIELD POLICIES

Effective: February 12, 2003

Reviewed: July 2008, July 2016

Revised: July 12, 2012

Scope: BLS and ALS Personnel



EMS Agency Medical Director

HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITY ON SCENE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code Div. 2.5, Section 1798.6, Penal Code Section 409.3.

PURPOSE:

To define medical authority at the scene of a medical emergency and provide guidelines for the transfer of care from non-transport to transport personnel.

POLICY:

A) Patient care authority:

1. The most medically qualified "pre-hospital" personnel who is first on-scene providing care at a medical emergency shall have patient care management authority.

B) Transfer of care:

1. BLS personnel to ALS personnel:
 - a. BLS personnel shall transfer patient care upon the arrival of ALS personnel.
2. Non-transport ALS personnel to transporting ALS personnel:
 - a. When first on-scene, the non-transporting ALS personnel should transfer patient care authority upon arrival of the transporting ALS personnel.
 - b. When the non-transporting ALS personnel have initiated ALS care and the transfer of care might negatively affect patient care, the non-transporting ALS personnel shall maintain patient care authority during transport.
 - c. Base station contact is not required for the transfer of care (ground units). ALS personnel are encouraged to utilize base station contact to expedite the transfer of care whenever questions arise.
3. Base station contact is is required as per the EMS Aircraft policy for all air ambulance or rescue helicopter scene transports.