

# EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

## FIELD POLICIES

Effective: July 1, 2008

Reviewed: November 2008, July 2016

Revised: N/A

Scope: ALS Personnel



EMS Agency Medical Director

### PHYSICIAN AT SCENE

#### PURPOSE:

This policy outlines the steps to be followed when, at the scene of injury or illness, a bystander identifies himself/herself as a physician.

#### PROCEDURE:

- 1) When a bystander at an emergency scene identifies himself/herself as a physician, the paramedic will give the individual a "Note to Physician" on Involvement with paramedics (See the example on next page.)
- 2) Thank the physician for his/her offer of assistance and remain courteous at all times.
- 3) If the physician on the scene desires option 1, the base station will retain medical control. If base station contact was established, the paramedic will utilize the physician as an "assistant" in patient care activities.
- 4) If the physician at scene desires option 2 or 3, the paramedic will:
  - Ask to see the physician's medical license, unless the physician is known to them.
  - Immediately contact the base station and speak to the base station physician.
  - The paramedic should instruct the physician on scene to speak directly with the base station physician.
- 5) The base station physician may choose one of the following options:
  - Option 1** - Request that the physician on scene function in an observer capacity only.
  - Option 2** - Retain medical control but consider suggestions offered by the physician on scene.
  - Option 3** - Delegate medical control to the physician on scene.
- 6) If the physician on scene is delegated medical control by the base station physician (Option 3), the paramedic shall:
  - Make ALS equipment and supplies available to the physician and offer assistance
  - Ensure that the physician accompanies the patient to the receiving hospital in the ambulance
  - Ensure that the physician signs for all instructions and medical care given on the PCR
  - Keep the base station advised
  - Complete an incident report and forward a copy to the EMS Agency within seventy-two (72) hours

<p><b>STATE OF CALIFORNIA</b> <b>cma</b></p> <p><b>California Medical Association</b></p> <p><u>NOTE TO PHYSICIAN ON INVOLVEMENT WITH EMT-IIs AND EMT-Ps (PARAMEDIC)</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you want to assist, this can <b>only</b> 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.</p> <p><b>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).</b></p>
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<p><b><u>ENDORSED ALTERNATIVES FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT</u></b></p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Offer your assistance with another pair of eyes, hands, or suggestions, but let the life support team remain under base hospital control; or,</li><li>2. Request to talk to the base station physician and directly offer your medical advice and assistance; or,</li><li>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.)</li></ol> <p><b>REV. 7/88 88 49638 Provided by the Emergency Medical Services Authority</b></p>
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**NOTE: Wallet sized CMA cards are available at the EMS Agency office.**