

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

I. AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220, and Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 100169.

II. PURPOSE

To provide direction for prehospital personnel when a physician is present on the scene of an EMS call.

III. POLICY


Prehospital ALS personnel shall accept direction from a physician at the scene of an EMS call only under the circumstances described below.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. If a physician wishes to direct the ALS care of a patient in the field and they are not recognized as a physician by EMS personnel, identification shall be requested. Identification should include a valid California Medical License and some form of identification that includes a picture (e.g. drivers license, hospital I.D.). Identification will not be required for calls originating at a physician's office, hospital or clinic.
- B. For calls originating at a private physician's office, clinic, emergency department, or when a patient's own private physician is on-scene, ALS personnel may follow the attending physician's written direction and will not be required to make base hospital contact unless: 1) the physician's orders do not comply with Regionally approved policies or treatment guidelines, or 2) the physician's orders do not comply with Regionally approved ALS/BLS scope of practice, or 3) there is an unexpected development in route which would require base hospital contact. Any written directions given by the physician shall accompany the patient and a copy shall be attached to the Patient Care Record.

- C. For calls originating at the scene of a medical emergency in which a physician is present who is not the patient's private physician, or if the attending physician's orders described in paragraph B, do not comply with approved treatment guidelines or scope of practice, the physician shall either be 1) advised that prehospital personnel function under the direction of a base hospital physician and place them in contact with the base physician; or 2) presented with a "Note to Physician on Involvement with EMT IIs and EMT-P (Paramedic)" card endorsed by the California Medical Association and the State EMS Authority (see page 3 of 3); or 3) informed that he/she may assume medical direction if they are also willing to accompany the patient in the ambulance to the receiving hospital.
- D. If the physician is not willing to accompany the patient and still wishes to direct the care, EMS personnel shall establish radio or telephone contact with the appropriate base hospital and explain the situation to the base hospital physician.
- E. If the base hospital physician so directs, the ALS personnel may take medical direction from the private physician as long as that direction is consistent with their scope of practice. In this situation, the base hospital physician shall assume medical control upon the initiation of transport.
- F. ALS personnel accepting appropriate direction from a private physician shall continue to follow Regional EMS policies, Treatment Guidelines, and Scope of Practice.
- G. The private physician may choose to offer assistance with another pair of eyes, hands, or suggestions; but allow the ALS personnel to operate under the direction of the base hospital, or the appropriate policies and procedures.
- H. At all times the private physician is to be treated with respect and courtesy. Utilize the base hospital physician to resolve any challenges that arise and file an Unusual Occurrence report with your employer liaison.

V. State of California - California Medical Association, Note To Physician on Involvement With EMT-IIs and EMT-Ps (Paramedic):

 <p>STATE OF CALIFORNIA EMSA &</p> <p>CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</p> <p>NOTE TO PHYSICIANS ON INVOLVEMENT WITH EMT-Is AND PARAMEDICS</p> <p>A life support team (EMT-II or Paramedic) operates under standard policies and procedures developed by the local EMS agency and approved by their Medical Director under 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 listed on the back of this card. These alternatives have been endorsed by CMA, State EMS Authority, CCLHO and BMQA.</p> <p>Assistance rendered in the endorsed fashion, without compensation, is covered by the protection of the Good Samaritan Code@ (see Business and Professional Code, Sections 2144, 2395-2298 and Health and Safety Code, Section 1799.104). (over)</p>	<p><u>ENDORSED ALTERNATIVES FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT</u></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 one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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 procedures. <p>(Whenever possible, remain in contact with the base station physician)</p> <p>(REV. 7/88) 88 49638 Provided by the Emergency Medical Services Authority</p>
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