

**TITLE: INTERACTION WITH PHYSICIAN OR OTHER
HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ON SCENE**

EMS Policy No . 5106

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedures to be followed by Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel while at the scene of a medical emergency when bystanders identify themselves as a physician or a registered nurse (R.N.).

AUTHORITY: Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220, 1798 et seq., and 1799.104 (a)

POLICY:

I. Physician At Scene

- A. In the event that an unknown physician offers assistance on scene, ask the person his/her name and request to see his/her State of California physician or surgeon's license. If doubt about the person's license request to see proof of identity, i.e. state driver's license or identity card.
- B. Pre-hospital personnel have the following responsibilities in the event that a physician is on scene:
 1. Remain tactful, calm, and courteous.
 2. Provide the physician with a California Medical Association – EMS Authority physician involvement on scene card (Appendix A) describing his/her options. EMS personnel should keep these cards readily available.
 3. **The identity of a physician shall be confirmed** prior to EMS personnel relinquishing responsibility for patient care.
 4. Offer assistance to the physician on scene. The EMS provider cannot perform orders given outside normal scope of practice as defined in the San Joaquin County EMS Treatment Protocols.
 5. Maintain control of medications and equipment from the unit, and inform the physician of drug and equipment availability.
 6. Make initial contact with the base hospital physician (BHP), and communicate newly implemented plan for scene management.
- C. Once identification has been confirmed, the physician may choose one of the alternatives listed below:
 1. Offer assistance with another pair of eyes or hands, or offer suggestions, but allow the ALS provider to remain under EMS on-line and off-line medical control; **OR**
 2. Request to talk to a Base Hospital Physician (BHP) and directly offer medical advice and assistance; **OR**

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3. Take total responsibility for the care given by the ALS provider and physically accompany the patient until the patient arrives at a hospital and the receiving physician assumes responsibility. Physicians exercising the right to assume patient care must document and sign for all care provided and instructions given to EMS personnel following transport to the receiving facility.
 - D. **Conflict Resolution:** In the event that any unresolved conflict arises regarding the delivery of patient care, EMS personnel shall contact a BHP immediately. The BHP has final authority over medical care to be provided by EMS personnel.
 - E. Private Physicians - If the patient's private physician intervenes in person or by telephone, EMS personnel shall inform the patient's physician that they will need to make BHP contact.
- II. Other Non-physician Providers on Scene:
- A. If off-duty EMS personnel are on scene, they may assist with BLS patient care at the discretion of attending paramedic or EMT.
 - B. An off-duty San Joaquin County accredited paramedic and an employee of the on scene ALS provider may provide ALS care and treatment under the direction of the attending paramedic.
 - C. An off-duty paramedic not accredited in San Joaquin County or not an employee of the on scene ALS provider which provides proof of current paramedic licensure in California may at the discretion of the attending paramedic, and while under direct supervision provide assistance not to exceed the State's basic paramedic scope of practice.
 - D. All other types of licensed medical personnel (Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse, Respiratory Therapist, etc.) may, at the discretion of the attending paramedic or EMT, may assist with BLS patient care.

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