

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to define the authority for patient health care management in the San Joaquin County EMS system.

AUTHORITY: Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220

POLICY:

- I. In order to ensure accountability and medical control for patient care management throughout the pre-hospital process the following shall apply:
 - A. In the event that both transport and non-transport emergency medical services personnel are on the scene with the same qualifications, patient health care management will rest with the San Joaquin County emergency ambulance service transport provider. The first arriving paramedic shall initiate care and shall transfer care to the transport provider as soon as the “task at hand” is completed (i.e., starting IV, etc.). All pre-hospital personnel shall cooperate with one another to ensure rapid and efficient care and transport of all patients.
 - B. During multi-casualty incidents (MCIs) the senior most qualified representative from the exclusive emergency ambulance service provider, which may include field supervisors or management personnel, shall determine who shall serve as the “Medical Group Supervisor” or if established the “Medical Branch Director.”
 - C. The list below defines the assignment of responsibility for patient care management in the San Joaquin EMS system based on resources available on scene from the lowest level to highest level with the emergency ambulance service transport provider paramedic having the highest level of responsibility for patient care management:
 1. Public Safety First Aid;
 2. First responder;
 3. Non-transport EMT-I;
 4. Transport EMT-I;
 5. Non-transport Paramedic;
 6. Transport Paramedic.
 - D. Notwithstanding paragraphs A, B, and C above, the authority of the San Joaquin County Health Officer and Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator shall not be infringed.

Effective: November 14, 2006

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Revised:

Supersedes: EMS Policy 530.03

Approved: Signature on File
Medical Director

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EMS Administrator