

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY



**TITLE: AUTHORITY FOR PRE-HOSPITAL
PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT**

EMS Policy No. **5001**

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

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

DEFINITIONS: See SJCEMSA Policy Definitions

POLICY:

- I. To ensure accountability and medical control for patient care management throughout the prehospital patient encounter, the following shall apply:
 - A. The first appropriately credentialed San Joaquin County prehospital personnel who arrives at the scene of a patient shall establish patient care.
 - B. Non transport and transport prehospital personnel shall provide collaborative care to the patient. Personnel shall work together to provide efficient care and rapid transport of patients.
 - C. A transfer of patient care shall occur when a higher medically trained prehospital personnel arrives on the scene and makes patient contact. In some cases, it may be appropriate for a higher level of care prehospital personnel to transfer patient care management to lower-level prehospital personnel. Refer to EMS Policy No. 5104, EMT Attending Patient Care During Transport.
 - D. If a non-transport paramedic has arrived on scene and established patient care prior to a transport paramedic, care shall be transferred immediately to the transporting paramedic. Exceptions to this include:
 1. Non transport paramedics have established patient care and, in their judgement, maintaining such continuity of patient care will lessen scene time and expedite treatment and transport to definitive care and will benefit patient outcome, the non-transport paramedic may elect to maintain patient care throughout transport. In such cases, the transport paramedic shall support patient care management.
 2. Non-Transport paramedic has established patient care when there is an EMT only transport crew on scene and the non-transport paramedic has determined the patient requires continued ALS monitoring and/or care without delay of waiting for a higher-level transport crew to arrive. Non transport paramedics may continue patient care management to hospital

Effective: July 1, 2025

Supersedes: November 14, 2006

Approved:

Katherine Spitzer, MD
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Medical Director

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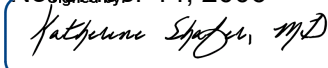
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- with EMT crew.
3. Non-transport paramedic has established patient care and a patient is declining transport. If there has been no transfer of patient care the non-transport personnel may elect to manage patient's refusal or AMA and cancel ambulance response.
- E. Transfer of patient care shall be done verbally on scene and documented in the patient care record.
- F. The list below defines the assignment of authority and responsibility for prehospital patient care management in the San Joaquin EMS system based on resources available on scene from the lowest level to highest level:
1. Public Safety First Aid;
 2. First responder;
 3. EMT;
 4. Advanced EMT;
 5. Paramedic.

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