

SIERRA-SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMS AGENCY ALS PROTOCOL / PROGRAM POLICY

REFERENCE NO. 835

SUBJECT: MEDICAL CONTROL AT THE SCENE OF AN EMERGENCY

PURPOSE:

To define patient care responsibilities at the scene of a non-disaster medical emergency when two or more ALS personnel are present from two or more agencies and to define the parameters for transferring patient care to another individual in the pre-hospital setting.

AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.220, 1798.6.

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

POLICY:

1. "Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, which may include any Paramedic, or other prehospital emergency personnel, at the scene of the emergency, who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of the emergency."
2. "Notwithstanding the above, authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority. The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks." (Health and Safety Code, Section 1798.6). Some limited examples are as follows:

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Next Review Date: 01/10

Page 1 of 3

Approved:

William J. Koenig, MD

S-SV EMS Medical Director

Vickie Pinette

S-SV EMS Regional Executive Director

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HIGHWAY PATROL	<i>All freeways; all roadways in unincorporated areas to include right-of-way. (CVC 2454)</i>
SHERIFF'S OFFICE	<i>Off-highway unincorporated areas, i.e., parks, private property, etc. (Local policy)</i>
LOCAL FIRE/POLICE	<i>Specific areas of authority within their jurisdiction, except freeways.</i>
AIRPORT/FIRE/POLICE	<i>Airports</i>
U.S. MILITARY	<i>National Defense Area; a military reservation or an area with "military reservation status" that is temporarily under military control, e.g., military aircraft crash site.</i>

PROCEDURE:

1. Medical management at the scene of a medical emergency includes:
 - a. Medical evaluation
 - b. Medical aspects of extrication and all movement of the patient(s)
 - c. Medical care
 - d. Patient destination, in consultation with base hospital when necessary
 - e. Transport code
2. The first ALS certified person on the scene shall assume responsibility for the patient's care.
3. If the responsible ALS certified person cannot establish communication with the base/modified base hospital and a second ALS certified person with equal or higher certification from a different base arrives who can establish base communications, the second ALS certified person shall assume responsibility for the patient's care.
4. Whenever a Paramedic transfers patient care responsibility to another prehospital care provider, s/he is responsible for noting such action took place on the Patient Care Report (PCR) Form. The responsible Paramedic(s) is (are) required to document patient findings and treatments according to S-SV EMS regional policy.

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CROSS REFERENCES:

Policy and Procedure Manual

Patient Care Report (PCR) Form, Reference No. 605

Base Hospital Contact, Reference No. 812

Multiple Patient/casualty Incidents, Reference No. 837

Physician on Scene, Reference No. 838

Communication Failure, Reference No. 890