

Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

Medical Control at The Scene of an Emergency

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|  | Effective: 06/01/2017 | Next Review: 11/2019 | 835 |
| | Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director | | SIGNATURE ON FILE |
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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 providers and to define the parameters for transferring patient care to another individual in the prehospital setting.

AUTHORITY:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, § 1797.220, 1798.6.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

POLICY:

- A. 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.
- B. 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. Some limited examples are as follows:
 - 1. California Highway Patrol – All freeways; all roadways in unincorporated areas to include right-of-way. (CVC 2454)
 - 2. Sheriff’s Office – Off-highway unincorporated areas (parks, private property, etc.).

3. Local Fire/Police – Specific areas of authority within their jurisdiction, except freeways.
4. Airport Fire/Police – Airports.
5. U.S. Military – 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.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Medical management at the scene of a medical emergency includes:
 1. Medical evaluation and care.
 2. Medical aspects of extrication and movement of the patient(s).
 3. Patient destination, in consultation with base/modified base hospital when necessary.
 4. Mode of transport (ground or air).
 5. Transport code.
- B. The first on duty ALS licensed and accredited or certified responder on the scene shall assume responsibility for the patient’s care.
- C. Whenever ALS personnel transfer patient care responsibility to another EMS provider, they are responsible for noting such action took place on the patient care report.

CROSS REFERENCES:

- A. Prehospital Documentation (605).
- B. Base/Modified Base/Receiving Hospital Contact (812).
- C. Multiple Casualty Incidents (837).
- D. Physician on Scene (839).
- E. Communication Failure (890).