


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Physician On Scene**

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|  | Effective: 06/01/2023                          | Next Review: 03/2026 | <b>839</b>        |
|   | Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director |                      | SIGNATURE ON FILE |
|   | Approval: John Poland – Executive Director     |                      | SIGNATURE ON FILE |

**PURPOSE:**

To define patient care responsibilities when a physician is on the scene of a medical emergency.

**AUTHORITY:**

- A. HSC, Division 2.5, § 1797.220, 1798.2.
- B. CCR, Title 22, Division 9.

**POLICY:**

- A. EMS personnel encountering a physician on the scene of a medical emergency shall initiate and maintain responsibility for patient care, unless the physician assumes responsibility for patient care and accompanies the patient to the hospital (if required). EMS personnel may assist the physician as long as they operate within their applicable scope of practice.
- B. If necessary, EMS personnel are responsible for confirming that the individual is in fact a California licensed physician. If needed, utilize the EMSA/CMA Physician on Scene Card included in this policy.
- C. In the event of a conflict with a physician on scene, EMS personnel shall consult with the base/modified base hospital and document the events appropriately.

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Physician is a bystander:
  - 1. If the physician wishes to do more than offer assistance, they must:
    - Assume responsibility for the patient.
    - Provide the care s/he wishes.
    - Accompany the patient to the hospital (if safety allows).

2. If there is a conflict between the physician's requested treatment and the EMS personnel's scope of practice, EMS personnel shall explain that they can only treat within their applicable scope of practice.
3. If necessary, contact the base/modified base hospital and request the physician to discuss any issues directly with base/modified base hospital personnel.

**B. Physician is patient's physician:**

1. The physician may provide treatment prior to transfer of patient care to EMS personnel.
2. If there is a conflict between the physician's requested treatment and the EMS personnel's scope of practice following transfer of patient care, EMS personnel shall explain that they can only treat within their applicable scope of practice.
3. If necessary, contact the base/modified base hospital and request the physician to discuss any issues directly with base/modified base hospital personnel.
4. Patient care may be transferred to EMS personnel. There is no requirement for the physician to accompany the patient to the hospital in these circumstances.

**EMSA/CMA PHYSICIAN ON SCENE CARD:**

FRONT

BACK

|   |  |
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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NOTE TO PHYSICIANS ON INVOLVEMENT WITH EMS PERSONNEL</u></b></p> <p>EMS personnel operate under standard policies and procedures developed by the Local EMS Agency and approved by their Medical Director under Authority of Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The drugs they carry and procedures they can do are restricted by law and local policy.</p> <p>If you want to assist, this can only be done through one of the alternatives listed on the back of this card. These alternatives have been endorsed by CMA, State EMS Authority and CCLHO.</p> <p>Assistance rendered in the endorsed fashion, without compensation, is covered by the protection of the "Good Samaritan Code" (see Business and Professional Code, Sections 2144, 2395-2298 and Health and Safety Code, Section 1799.104).</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ENDORSED ALTERNATIVES FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT</u></b></p> <p>After identifying yourself by name as a physician licensed in the State of California, and, if requested, showing proof of identity, you may choose one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer your assistance with another pair of eyes, hands or suggestions, but let EMS personnel remain under base hospital control; or,</li> <li>2. Request to talk to the base station physician and directly offer your medical advice and assistance; or,</li> <li>3. Take total responsibility for the care given by EMS personnel and physically accompany the patient until the patient arrives at a hospital (if safety allows) and responsibility is assumed by the receiving physician. In addition, you must sign for all instructions given in accordance with local policy and procedures.</li> </ol> |
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