

## Physician on Scene

### Standard:

The medical direction of patient care at the scene of an emergency is the responsibility of those most appropriately trained in providing such care. All care should be provided within the rules and regulations of the Texas Medical Board of the State of Texas.

### Purpose:

This standard is established to identify a chain of command for System providers when dealing with physicians on scene and to assure the patient receives the maximum benefit of appropriate physician resources.

### Application:

The TMB has specific rules pertaining to the authority of a physician to order specific patient care interventions on the scene of a medical call. There are two different types of situations regarding on-scene physicians. One is when the patient's own physician is on-scene ("**Patient's Personal Physician**"). The other is when a physician that does not have an established relationship with the patient is on-scene ("**Intervener Physician**").

#### 1. Physician On-Scene/General Guidelines:

- a) The Credentialed Provider on-scene is responsible for management of the patient(s) and acts as the agent of the Medical Director or OLMC
- b) In order to participate in care, the patient's personal physician or intervener must present a valid Texas Medical Board License (all physicians are issued a wallet card) or be recognized as a physician by the Provider

#### 2. Patient's Personal Physician On-Scene:

- a) If the patient's personal physician is present and assumes care, the Credentialed Provider should defer to the orders of the patient's personal physician if the directed practice is within the scope and training of the credentialed provider
- b) The patient's personal physician must document his or her interventions and/or orders and it must be retained with the EMS Patient Care Record
- c) OLMC should be notified of the participation of the patient's personal physician either from the scene or on arrival at the emergency department
  - i) *If there is a disagreement between the patient's personal physician and the System COGs, the physician shall be placed in direct communication with OLMC at the receiving facility. If the patient's personal physician and the on-line physician disagree on treatment, the patient's personal physician must either continue to provide direct patient care and accompany the patient to the hospital, or must defer all remaining care to the on-line physician*

#### 3. Intervener Physician On-Scene:

- a) If an intervener physician is present at the scene, has been satisfactorily identified as a licensed physician and has expressed willingness to assume responsibility for care of the patient, OLMC should be contacted. The on-line physician has the option to:
  - i) manage the case exclusively
  - ii) work with the intervener physician
  - iii) allow the intervener physician to assume complete responsibility for the patient
    - (1) *If there is a disagreement between the intervener physician and OLMC, the Provider will take direction from the on-line physician and place the intervener physician in contact with the on-line physician*
- b) The intervener physician must document his or her interventions and/or orders on the EMS Patient Care Record

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- c) The decision of the intervener physician not to accompany the patient to the hospital shall be made with the approval of the on-line physician
- d) Medical orders are not accepted from any non-physician health care providers unless specifically approved by OLMC