



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Emergency Medical Services Agency

POLICY #401.00

TITLE: **PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT WITH EMS PERSONNEL**

APPROVED: ON-FILE

EMS Administration: Kathleen Grassi, R.D., MPH

ON-FILE

EMS Medical Director: Ajinder Singh, MD CPE

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Authority: California Health and Safety Code Division 2.5 Sections 1797.220-226.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy shall be to define the role of the non-Base Hospital physician in the prehospital setting and to provide guidance to EMS personnel (EMTs, Paramedics and Registered Nurses) regarding their involvement with these physicians.

Policy: EMS personnel operate under standard policies and procedures developed by the Local EMS Agency and approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director under the authority of Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. EMS personnel shall not respond to the medical direction of any individual other than the on-duty Base Hospital MICN or physician, or allow the involvement of a non-Base Hospital physician in the rendering of medical care except as follows:

1. The physician must identify him/herself by name and as a physician licensed in the State of California. EMS personnel may request proof of identity.
2. Once properly identified, the physician may assist in one of the following manners:
 - A. Offer assistance by providing another pair of eyes or hands or offer suggestions but the EMS personnel shall remain under the medical control of the Base Hospital, or
 - B. Confer directly to the Base Hospital physician and offer medical advice, or
 - C. Take total responsibility for the care rendered by the EMS personnel, in which case the non-Base Hospital physician shall remain with the patient during transportation and until care for the patient has been properly assumed by the receiving hospital physician. The non-Base Hospital physician must sign for all orders given to the EMS personnel on the patient care report form.
3. EMS personnel shall inform non-Base Hospital physicians seeking to become involved in the delivery of prehospital care at the scene of this policy by giving the physician a "Note to Physicians on Involvement with EMTs and Paramedics" card provided by the Merced County EMS Agency and is included as part of this policy.

Note: 2-side print the "Note to Physicians on Involvement with EMTs and Paramedics" on card stock to create information cards for involved non-Base Hospital physicians.

