

POLICY #217: PHYSICIAN ON-SCENE

I. POLICY

- A. In accordance with established procedures, appropriate emergency medical service personnel may utilize the assistance of an “on-scene” physician in patient care within San Luis Obispo County.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. When at the scene of a call, if an individual offers their assistance and introduces themselves as a licensed physician in the State of California, emergency medical services personnel shall:
1. If emergency medical services personnel do not know the physician’s identity, request identification. If the patient is in extremis, defer any procedure for identification and immediately allow the physician to assist or direct patient care to the level that the physician desires.
 2. Provide the physician the opportunity to read the California Medical Association “Note to Physicians on Involvement with EMS personnel” card/ Policy #217 Attachment A and describe for the physician the three levels of possible physician involvement.
 3. Advise the base hospital physician of the situation and of the on-scene physician’s level of involvement.
 4. If appropriate, allow the physician to speak with the base hospital physician.
 5. Follow the direction of the base hospital.
 6. In cases of controversy between the on-scene physician and emergency medical services personnel regarding patient care, the base hospital physician will be the final arbitrator for medical direction of the paramedic.
- B. Options for Physician Assistance Include:
1. Offers Assistance Only- A physician may offer BLS level assistance as another pair of eyes or hands or in making suggestions but allows medical direction to remain with the base hospital or standard SLOEMSA prehospital protocols. In this situation, prehospital personnel shall follow their normal operational policies and procedures.
 2. Offers Medical Advice and Assistance- A physician may request to speak to the base hospital physician and offer medical advice and assistance. In this situation, prehospital personnel shall follow the direction of the base hospital physician.
 3. Takes Total Responsibility- A physician may take total responsibility for the care given to the patient and, if safety allows, physically accompany the patient until the patient arrives at a hospital, and the receiving physician assumes responsibility.

C. Physician Request to Utilize ALS Drug or Equipment

If a physician at the scene of a patient in extremis requests to use the prehospital unit's drug and/or equipment inventory, the requested drugs and/or equipment should be made available immediately. If a physician at the scene of a stable patient request to use the prehospital unit's drug and/or equipment inventory, the requested drugs and/or equipment should be made available after the physician is either recognized by the prehospital personnel or provides appropriate identification.

D. Role of the Paramedic

ALS personnel shall function within their accredited scope of practice only. Initially, ALS personnel should provide care identified in the "standing orders" portion of the paramedic treatment protocols. The base hospital physician should be immediately notified and informed of the patient's progress and treatment being provided. If the on-scene physician is requesting ALS personnel to perform treatment outside the accredited scope of practice or treatment only allowed with base hospital approval, ALS personnel should inform the physician of their limitations and the need to notify the base hospital physician.

The base hospital physician may direct ALS personnel to actively assist the physician as appropriate with patient care. The on-scene physician shall sign the Prehospital Care Report for all instructions given.



III. AUTHORITY

- Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 & 1798.6
- California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100175

IV. ATTACHMENTS

A. Note to Physicians on Involvement with EMS personnel

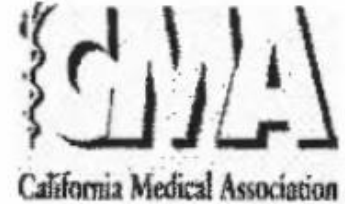
Approvals:

EMS Agency, Administrator	
EMS Agency, Medical Director	

NOTE TO PHYSICIANS ON INVOLVEMENT WITH EMS PERSONNEL CARD



STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FRONT

BACK

NOTE TO PHYSICIANS ON INVOLVEMENT WITH EMS PERSONNEL

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.

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.

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).

ENDORSED ALTERNATIVES FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT

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:

1. Offer your assistance with another pair of eyes, hands or suggestions, but let EMS personnel remain under base hospital control; or,
2. Request to talk to the base station physician and directly offer your medical advice and assistance; or,
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.