

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4060
Effective Date: 7/1/2023
Review Date: 6/30/2026

PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

I. PURPOSE

This policy provides direction for prehospital personnel when, at the scene of injury or illness, a bystander identifies themselves as a physician and wants to be involved in the care of the patient.

II. PROCEDURE FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT

- A. If a bystander identifies themselves as a physician and wants to be involved in the care of the patient, prehospital personnel should show the physician the card issued by the State of California entitled “Note to Physician on Involvement with Paramedics” (attached) and ask the physician to select one of the three options provided.
- B. If the physician on scene desires option one (1), medical control remains with the protocols established by the Monterey County EMS Agency Medical Director and, as needed, the Base Hospital physician.
- C. If the physician on scene desires option two (2), prehospital personnel shall:
 - 1. Ask to see the physician’s valid California medical license, unless prehospital personnel already know the physician from prior professional interactions.
 - 2. Immediately contact the Base Hospital and allow the physician on scene to speak with the Base Hospital physician. If there is disagreement between the physician on scene and the Base Hospital physician regarding the medical care required, EMS providers shall remain in control of patient care under the medical direction of the Base Hospital physician.
 - 3. If the physician on scene performs a procedure or continues to engage in direct patient care after the arrival of EMS, such involvement is categorized as option three (3) and requires the elements listed under Section II (D) below.
- D. If the physician on scene desires option three (3), performs a procedure, or continues to engage in direct patient care after the arrival of EMS, in addition to the items in Section II (C) above, prehospital personnel shall:
 - 1. Make equipment and supplies available to the physician and offer assistance.
 - 2. Ensure the physician accompanies the patient in the ambulance to the receiving hospital.
 - 3. Ensure the physician signs the EMS Patient Care Report for all instructions and medical care given.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California Medical Association

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN ON INVOLVEMENT WITH PREHOSPITAL PERSONNEL

A life support team (PARAMEDIC) operates under standard policies and procedures developed by the local EMS agency and approved by their Medical Director under the 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. CMA, State EMS Authority, CCLHO, and BMQA have endorsed these alternatives.

Assistance rendered in the endorsed fashion, without compensation, is covered by the protection of the "Good Samaritan Code" (see Business and Professions Code, Sections 2144, 2395-2398 and Health and Safety Code, Section 1799.104).

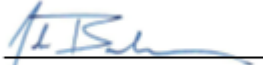
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ENDORSED ALTERNATIVES FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT

After identifying yourself by name as a physician licensed in the State of California, and, if requested, showing proof of identity, you may choose to do one of the following:

1. Offer your assistance with another pair of eyes, hands, or suggestions, but let the life support team 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 the life support team and physically accompany the patient until the patient arrives at a hospital and the receiving physician assumes responsibility. In addition, you must sign for all instructions given in accordance with local policy and procedures. (Whenever possible, remain in contact with the base station physician).

END OF POLICY


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