

# Physician On-Scene

## I. PURPOSE

This policy provides direction for prehospital personnel, when at the scene of injury or illness, a bystander identifies him/herself as a physician.

## II. PROCEDURE FOR PHYSICIAN INVOLVEMENT

- A. If bystander at an emergency scene identifies him / herself as a physician and wishes to direct patient care, prehospital personnel should show the card issued by the State of California entitled “Note to Physician on Involvement with EMTs / Paramedics” (attached).
- B. Then endorsed alternatives for physician involvement include:
- “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.*
  - 2. Request to talk to the Base Hospital physician and directly offer your medical advise and/or assistance.*
  - 3. Take responsibility for the care given by the life support team and physically accompany the patient until the patient arrives at the hospital and responsibility is assumed by the receiving physician. In addition, you must sign for all instructions given in accordance with local policy and procedure. (Whenever possible, remain in contact with the Base Hospital physician.)”*
- C. If the physician on scene desires option one (1), the Base Hospital will retain medical control if Base Hospital contact was established.
- D. If the physician on scene desires option two (2) or three (3), the paramedics will:
1. Ask to see the physician’s valid California medical license, unless the paramedics know the physician.
  2. Immediately contact the Base Hospital and speak to the Base Hospital Physician.
  3. Paramedics will make ALS equipment and supplies available to the physician and offer assistance.
  4. Ensure the physician accompanies the patient to the receiving hospital in the ambulance.
  5. Ensure the physician signs for all instructions and medical care given on the EMS patient care report.



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## **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

### **California Medical Association**

#### ***NOTE TO PHYSICIAN ON INVOLVEMENT WITH PARAMEDICS (PARAMEDIC)***

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).

(over)

#### ***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).

