

# Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4060  
Effective Date: 7/1/2018  
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## PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for patient management where:

- A. A physician requests to assume patient care responsibilities, or
- B. A private physician who is on scene and providing care for their previously established patient requires Emergency Medical Services.
- C. A physician provides written orders for use during an interfacility transport.

### II. POLICY

- A. Paramedics function under the direction of the EMS Medical Director through on-line medical control provided by the base hospital physician or through established policies, protocols, and procedures.
- B. Paramedics may accept orders that do not exceed Monterey County scope of practice from licensed physicians with approval by the base hospital physician.

### III. PROCEDURE

#### A. Physician on Scene

1. The Monterey County paramedic on scene shall maintain responsibility for patient care and receive medical direction from the Base Hospital unless the physician can clearly identify him/her as a licensed physician and agrees to assume responsibility for care and accompany the patient to the hospital. When a California licensed physician is on scene and requests to assume patient care responsibility, the paramedic:
  - a) Shall initiate patient care.
  - b) Shall obtain proper identification, consisting of a California Physicians and Surgeons License.
  - c) May use the State of California card on Physician Involvement with EMT-P's to assist the physician in understanding their options for participation in patient care.
  - d) Shall contact the Base Hospital. If the on scene physician wants to provide direct patient care and/or order treatment, Base Hospital Physician approval must be obtained.
  - e) Shall ensure notice to the physician, that the physician must assume responsibility for the patient and accompany patient to the hospital, in the ambulance, if they render and direct care at scene.

- f) In the event of conflict, follow Base Hospital direction and document events. An Unusual Occurrence report shall be submitted to the EMS Agency.
- g) Ensure that patient destination will be in accordance to Monterey County Patient Destination policy.

#### B. Patient's Private Physician on Scene


1. The Monterey County paramedic may assist the patient's physician provided the paramedic operates within the Monterey County approved paramedic Scope of Practice and there is collaboration with the Base Hospital on treatment rendered at scene and enroute. When a private physician is on scene and providing care for their previously established patient the paramedic must:
  - a) Obtain proper identification consisting of a California Physician's and Surgeon's License.
  - b) The patient's physician may administer medication from the private physician's drug inventory. Advise the Base Hospital of any such treatment rendered. The paramedic may follow the patient's physician's orders if they do not conflict with Monterey County paramedic Scope of Practice and Field Treatment Guidelines.
  - c) Contact the Base Hospital to consult with the Base Hospital physician regarding treatment to be rendered. If there is conflict regarding treatment on scene, the Base Hospital physician should discuss treatment directly with the patient's physician.
  - d) Patient destination requests by private physicians may be granted provided the Base Hospital physician is in agreement..

#### C. Physician Orders for Interfacility Transport

1. The patient's private physician is responsible for continuity of care.
2. The paramedic provides patient care under the direction of the EMS Medical Director through the use of standing orders or through online medical control from the base hospital physician.
3. The paramedic who has been requested to provide interfacility transport shall follow orders written by the patient's private physician for care to be, or that may be, provided during the interfacility transport.
  - a) The paramedic may only provide treatment under these orders that is permitted by Monterey County EMS policy and protocol prior to base contact after receiving base hospital physician approval.
  - b) For written orders that exceed, or may exceed, treatment permitted prior to base contact, the paramedic shall contact the base hospital physician for direction prior to placing the patient on the ambulance gurney for transport.

- c) The base hospital physician shall either approve the patient's private physician's orders and allow the transport to continue or decline to allow the paramedic to follow any or all of the written orders. Should the base hospital physician decline to allow the paramedic to follow the written orders, the transport will not continue. The physician who wrote the orders shall be contacted by the sending hospital staff to either change the written orders to allow the transport to continue or to arrange for alternate transport.

**END OF POLICY**

  
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