

Monterey County EMS System Policy



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TRANSFER OF PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set the guidelines for transfer of patient responsibility in the prehospital setting in Monterey County's emergency medical services system.

II. POLICY

- A. EMS personnel shall seek to ensure continuity of patient care through effective communication of patient history, physical exam, and patient assessment findings, diagnostic signs, treatment provided, patient response, and any other relevant information to the healthcare providers taking over patient care responsibilities.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. When a patient is being treated by BLS level personnel, ALS level personnel arriving at the scene should make contact with the BLS personnel and obtain patient information. During this transfer of information, ALS personnel shall assume responsibility for the patient. ALS personnel may directly approach the patient to initiate ALS level patient assessment and care as needed based on patient need. ALS personnel will be responsible to obtain a report of patient information from BLS personnel and to ensure coordination of patient care with BLS personnel.
- B. First responder paramedics, when first on scene, may transfer patient care authority to the transport paramedic or shall maintain primary patient care responsibility to transfer of care at the hospital or to a flight crew. This decision shall be done immediately upon arrival of the transport paramedic. This shall be communicated verbally by the first response paramedic and verbally acknowledged by the transport paramedic. Should the decision to maintain primary patient care responsibility not be communicated by the first response paramedic, the transport paramedic is to confirm which paramedic will have primary patient care responsibility.
- C. The transport paramedic is to assist with patient care should the first response paramedic maintain primary patient care responsibilities.
- D. The base hospital physician should be contacted for direction should there be conflict regarding patient care.
- E. Whenever one paramedic takes over care from another, both individuals must complete and file a Patient Care Report (PCR). The time of transfer of care is to be documented on the PCR.
- F. Any paramedic unit taking over patient care from another paramedic unit should, whenever possible, resupply the first paramedic unit according to the ambulance provider resupply offer.

END OF POLICY


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