
Physician on Scene

Purpose: To provide a process for interaction between EMS personnel and physicians at the scene of a medical emergency.

I. Responsibility of Medical Control

- A. “When a life support agency is present at the scene of the emergency, authority for the management of an emergency patient in an emergency is vested in the physician responsible for medical control until that physician relinquishes management of the patient to a licensed physician at the scene of the emergency”. MCL 333.20967
- B. The EMS provider is responsible for management of the patient and acts as the agent of the medical control physician.

II. Patient Management in the Presence of an On Scene Physician

- A. The EMS provider may accept assistance and/or advice of the on-scene physician provided they are consistent with medical control protocols. The assistance of an on-scene physician may be provided without accepting full responsibility for patient care, as long as there is ongoing communications and approval by the medical control physician. The medical control physician may relinquish control of the patient to the on-scene physician provided the on-scene physician agrees to accept full responsibility for the patient. Full responsibility includes accompanying the patient to the hospital and completing a patient care record. The EMS personnel should encourage the on-scene physician to communicate with the on-line medical control physician.
- B. The medical control physician may reassume responsibility of the patient at their discretion at any time.

III. On-Scene Interaction with Emergency Medicine Residents, Fellows, Medical Control Physicians and the EMS Medical Director:

- A. Emergency medicine residents and fellows as part of their training will be participating in pre-hospital care. In each of their residency years they may be third-riding and can be a valuable addition to the pre-hospital care team.

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2. First year residents will participate primarily as observers. They may assist pre-hospital personnel upon request. The paramedic team leader is in charge of patient care at the scene.
3. Second year residents should begin to participate as part of the pre-hospital care team taking direction from the paramedic team leader. They should be encouraged to participate with procedures (IVs, spinal precautions, intubation, and others as possible). The paramedic team leader is in charge of patient care at the scene.
4. Third and Fourth year residents should participate fully as part of the pre-hospital care team. In addition, they may provide on-scene medical direction at the request of the paramedic team leader. If on-scene direction is requested/used, the same communications procedures should be used as if on-scene direction was not available. Inform the hospital of the care given and the name of the resident at the scene in addition to the usual report. If on-scene medical direction by the Third/Fourth year resident is not desired by the paramedic team leader, medical direction may be obtained in conventional ways by contacting the appropriate medical control hospital. The paramedic team leader is ultimately in charge of patient care at the scene; therefore, any conflicts that arise will be resolved in favor of the paramedic team leader or through conventional ways by contacting the appropriate medical control hospital. Conflicts will be reported promptly to the EMS Medical Director.
5. Medical Control Physicians and the GCMCA Medical Director may provide on-scene medical direction at their discretion. In this environment it will be expected that this physician will assume medical control and will give medical direction as needed. The physician must either accompany the patient to the hospital or remain available for direct two-way communication until the patient arrives at the hospital. If at any point communication cannot be maintained, medical control reverts to the Online Medical Control at the receiving facility. "Medical Control Physicians" refers to active licensed physicians with expertise in Emergency Medical Services and formally recognized by the GCMCA as a part of the administrative and oversight team, such as the Deputy Medical Director and Fellow in Emergency Medical Services. The GCMCA Medical Director can also designate an individual as a "Medical Control Physician."