



# McLean County Area EMS System

705 N East Street  
Bloomington, IL 61701

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<b>Title of Policy:</b> <i>Physician on Scene Policy</i>	<b>Policy Number:</b> Ops-113
<b>Effective Date:</b> 10/2004	<b>Review Date:</b> 10/27/2016
<b>Policy Area:</b> Operations	<b>Approvals:</b> EMSSC, EMS MD

## Background to Policy:

To clarify the EMT and/or Pre-hospital RN responsibility to a patient when a physician or nurse appears on the scene and expresses the desire to provide direct patient care.

## Policy Statement:

An on-scene physician or nurse does not automatically supersede EMT or Pre-hospital RN authority. Once an approved EMS provider patient relationship is established, written System protocol and standing orders provide the legal basis for a First Responder, EMT and/or Pre-hospital RN to function. This authority is considered the delegated practice of the EMS Medical Directors. Patient care cannot be relinquished to another person unless identification and credentials of that individual can be verified and the EMS MD or his/her designee (the on-line Medical Control Physician) approves the request.

## Policy:

- a. If a Professional Registered Nurse wishes to participate in patient care at an out-of-hospital scene, the RN may do so **ONLY** in a first aid capacity. The RN must have licensure from the Illinois Department of Public Health as a Pre-hospital RN to function as an advanced life support provider. Refer to Policy, "Assistance by Non-System Personnel" for further information.
- b. If a professed, duly licensed medical professional (MD/DO – hereinafter collectively referred to as physician) wishes to participate in and/or direct patient care on-scene, the First Responder/EMT/ Pre-hospital RN should communicate with Medical Control and inform the on-duty physician/ECRN of the situation.
- c. If the on-scene physician (including the patient's private physician) has properly identified himself/herself and wishes to direct total patient care, approval must be given by the on-line Medical Control physician. The on-scene physician must sign the ambulance report form and personally accompany the patient to the hospital, assuming total patient responsibility.
- d. Given the preceding circumstances, if a physician gives orders, while on-scene or en route, for procedures or treatments that the First Responder/EMT/Pre-hospital RN feels unreasonable, medically inaccurate, and/or not within the First Responder/EMT/Pre-hospital RN skill capabilities, refuse to follow such orders and transfer responsibility for the patient's care back to the Resource Hospital Medical Control Physician. The First Responder/EMT/Pre-hospital RN in all circumstances, should avoid any order or procedures emanating from an on-scene physician that would be harmful to the patient.
- e. If an on-scene physician has identified himself/herself, is not the patient's private physician, and obstructs efforts of the First Responder/EMT/Pre-hospital RN to aid a patient for whom they are called, or who insists on rendering patient care inappropriate to System standards for the



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circumstance and resists all of your efforts to function appropriately to the point where continued intervention will result in obstruction to rendering good and reasonable patient care, the First Responder/EMT/Pre-hospital RN should:

- i. Communicate the situation to Medical Control via radio or cellular communication
- ii. One EMS team member should divert the interfering on-scene physician while the other EMS members attend to the patient and attempt to request law enforcement
- f. Upon request by any physician to give orders or directions at the scene of an accident or illness, the EMS crew will:
  - i. Inform the physician that they are in direct radio contact with resource hospital physician
  - ii. Inform the physician that they can take orders only from the Resource Hospital physician
  - iii. Inform the physician the procedure for taking over medical control
- g. If the physician at the scene insists on assuming Medical Control, the EMS crew will:
  - i. Inform the resource hospital physician of the request
  - ii. Allow the physician at the scene to speak with the resource hospital physician as necessary
  - iii. Follow the directions of the resource hospital physician
- h. Should, at any time, the physician at the scene gives absolutely contraindicated or inappropriate directions or orders which could adversely affect patient care, or refuse to accompany the EMS crew to the hospital, the crew members will:
  - i. Immediately re-contact the Resource Hospital physician and inform him/her of the situation.
  - ii. Follow direction and orders of the Resource Hospital physician.
- i. If the on-scene physician is given Medical Control by the Resource Hospital and has produced a valid State of Illinois physician and surgeon's license:
  - i. The on-scene physician must accompany the patient to the hospital; and
  - ii. Sign the patient record.

## Resources: