


Title: Medical Authority on Scene	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> SOP
Category: Medical Control Dept/Prog/Service: Base Hospital Program	Distribution: NW Region Ambulance Operators & Paramedics		
Approved: Program Medical Director	Approval Date: February 2006		
Signature: 	Reviewed/Revised Date: May 2017		

1. PURPOSE

To assist Paramedics in determining medical authority on scene

2. POLICY STATEMENT

From time to time there may be an opportunity for a medically trained professional to attend to a patient at the same time the Paramedic is providing care to the patient in the field. As such, it needs to be clear as to the chain of medical authority.

The medical authority in ascending order is as follows:

- i. Physician*
- ii. Nurse and/or Nurse Practitioner
Critical Care Paramedic
- iii. Advanced Care Paramedic
- iv. Primary Care Paramedic
- v. Fire Fighter - AED certified
- vi. Emergency First Responder
- vii. Other Allied Health Provider

*The Physician must be licensed to practice in Ontario. Most Physicians will not practice outside of their licensing province; however, to be sure you should ask the question.

Consideration and good judgment must be given to each of these professional scopes of clinical practice and their ability to provide optimal care prior to allowing them to assume the position for higher medical authority. For example, the utility of either a psychiatrist or a mid-wife on a trauma scene would not necessarily be viewed as the higher medical authority.

3. PROCEDURE

- a. As in any situation, it is encouraged that medical personnel communicate with each other when determining the course of patient treatment. It is understood that there may be circumstances when communication is not possible, however, safety, and quality and effective patient care is paramount.

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- b. Should differences arise, maintain professional conduct in front of the patient and/or family member(s) at all times. The Paramedic will report any incident(s) to Base Hospital as soon as possible after the call, with supporting documentation to follow.
 - c. If the Paramedic is unclear about whom the higher medical authority is or this cannot be resolved on scene the Paramedic will contact the Base Hospital Physician for advice as soon as possible.
 - d. If requested, the Paramedic may assist the higher medical authority with patient care; however, patient care skills performed by the Paramedic must not exceed their current certification level or scope of practice.
 - e. When instructed to provide patient care that is not within the paramedic's certification level or scope of practice, it is the paramedic's responsibility to advise the higher medical authority. *The paramedic is responsible for their actions at all times.*
 - f. It is the Paramedic's responsibility to accurately document these types of calls as any other call and to include names and signatures of the higher medical authority on scene.
 - g. Supporting documents must be attached to the ACR and submitted to the Base Hospital when required e.g. incident reports.

4. RELATED PRACTICES AND/OR LEGISLATIONS

- i. *Ambulance Act (Ontario) and Ontario Regulation 257/00*