

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY**



Program Document: **Medical Scene Authority**  
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EMS Medical Director

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**Purpose:**

- A. To establish direction and guidelines concerning medical scene authority for Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SCEMSA) Paramedics or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) at the scene of a medical emergency.

**Authority:**

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

**Protocol:**

At the scene of a non-disaster medical emergency, when two or more Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel are present from two or more agencies, the following will occur:

- A. Authority for patient health care management in a non-disaster medical emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, which may include a Paramedic or other prehospital emergency personnel at the scene of the emergency, who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of an emergency.
- B. Notwithstanding the above, authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority. The scene of an emergency shall

be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks. (Health and Safety Code, section 1798.6(c)).

- C. Medical management at the scene of a medical emergency includes:
  - 1. Medical Evaluation.
  - 2. Medical aspects of extrication and all movement of the patient(s).
  - 3. Medical care as directed by the SCEMSA protocols.
  - 4. Determination of patient destination, in consultation with Base Hospital or Control Facility when necessary.
  - 5. Transport code.
- D. When a Paramedic transfers patient care responsibility to another prehospital care provider, he/she is responsible for noting on the patient care report that such action took place. The responsible Paramedic(s) is (are) required to document patient findings and treatments according to SCEMSA policy.