	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO		Document #	2036.09
	OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES		Page:	1 of 2
	<u>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</u>		Draft Date:	09/01/92
	Medical Scene Authority		Effective:	06/01/09
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EMS Medical Director

Chief, Emergency Medical Services

I. INTENT:

To provide direction and guidelines of medical scene authority for Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services (SCEMS) Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic (EMT-P) or Emergency Medical Technician – I (EMT-I) at the scene of a medical emergency.


II. AUTHORITY:

- A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Ch. 4, Art. 1, §1797.220; Ch. 5, §1798(a,b), §1798.2, and §1798.6(a).
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Ch. 2, Art. 2, §100063; Ch. 4, Art. 2, §100144, §100145 and §100147.

III. POLICY:

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 EMT-P, 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

	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	Document #	2036.09
		Page:	2 of 2
	<u>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</u> Medical Scene Authority	Draft Date:	09/01/92
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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 SCEMS protocols.
4. Determination of patient destination, in consultation with Base Hospital or Control Facility when necessary.
5. Transport code.

D. Whenever an EMT-P 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 EMT-P(s) is (are) required to document patient findings and treatments according to SCEMS policy.

Cross Reference: Transfer of Care: Non-Transporting EMT-P to Transporting EMT-P, PD #5010.