



### Advisory 19-01 Updated Policy: On Scene Medical Personnel

To: All EMS Agencies

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P, FACEP, FAEMS *J. Cushman*  
Regional Medical Director

Date: January 3, 2019

---

Frequently EMS crews encounter medical personnel assisting with patients at the scene of an emergency. This policy is designed to help guide you through interacting with the different levels of medical personnel you may encounter while on scene. Ultimately, you as the EMS provider are responsible for your patient until they arrive at the receiving facility and the care has been transferred, however this policy can assist EMS providers with mitigating any potential conflict that may arise.

This policy was approved at the December 18<sup>th</sup> REMAC and is effective immediately. This policy can also be found on the MLREMS website. With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

---

**web** www.mlrems.org  
**phone** (585) 463-2900  
**fax** (585) 473-3516

**office**  
44 Celebration Drive, Suite 2100  
Rochester, NY 14620

**mailing**  
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 655  
Rochester, NY 14642



## On-Scene Medical Personnel

### Patient's Personal Physician

If the patient's personal physician is on scene, they may assume responsibility for the patient provided they write and sign for all orders for the EMS provider. If the physician refuses to sign, Medical Control is to be contacted

Unless the physician accompanies the patient to the hospital, standard operating procedures and standing orders will prevail if the patient's condition deteriorates and/or other procedures are required. If the patient's personal physician accompanies the patient to the hospital, he/she continues to assume full responsibility for all orders and patient care decisions. The EMS provider will decline any orders that are contrary to, or exceed their level of training.

A patient's personal physician who is not on scene may not assume responsibility for patient care nor issue orders via telephone.

### Other Physician

A physician (bystander, Urgent Care, or other specialty physician) wishing to assume responsibility for a patient on scene or during their transport may do so only after approval from the Medical Control Physician. The EMS provider should make reasonable effort to verify the credentials and qualifications of the bystander physician prior to involving them in patient care\*. If doubt exists, Medical Control should be contacted and system protocols shall dictate patient care.

If approval from Medical Control cannot be obtained, the bystander physician may not assume responsibility for the patient, and the EMS provider will follow system protocols.

If a bystander physician wishes to assume responsibility for the patient, they must:

1. Write and sign for all orders for the EMS provider
2. Accompany the patient to the hospital

If the physician does not agree to accompany the patient to the hospital, standard operating procedures and standing orders will prevail both on scene and during transport. If the physician accompanies the patient to the hospital, he/she continues to assume full responsibility for all patient care decisions. The EMS provider will decline any orders that are contrary to or exceed the level of their training.

\* Verification of credentials may be on good faith by verbal communication if Medical Personnel are unable to produce physical documentation.

---

**web** www.mlrems.org  
**phone** (585) 463-2900  
**fax** (585) 473-3516

**office**  
44 Celebration Drive, Suite 2100  
Rochester, NY 14620

**mailing**  
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 655  
Rochester, NY 14642



**Registered Nurse, Physician Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse, Etc.**

Non-physician medical personnel may assist with patient care under direction of the EMS provider, but may not be in charge of, or assume responsibility for patient care.

**Other Prehospital Care Providers**

Off-Duty EMS personnel and On-Duty personnel from a lower scope of practice agency may assist with patient care under the direction of the EMS providers on scene but may not be in charge of, or assume responsibility for patient care.

---

**web** www.mlrems.org  
**phone** (585) 463-2900  
**fax** (585) 473-3516

**office**  
44 Celebration Drive, Suite 2100  
Rochester, NY 14620

**mailing**  
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 655  
Rochester, NY 14642