



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

General Order Number: 05-13	Effective Date: January 2010
Division: Emergency Medical	
Chapter: Provider/Physician On-Scene Interaction	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Marc S. Bashoor	Revision Date: N/A

POLICY

This General Order provides guidelines for the interaction of physicians and emergency medical services providers on an incident scene. These guidelines are not intended to take place of mutual recognition of education/training, professional respect and courtesy, or two-way communication between persons presumed to be acting in the best interest of the patient.

This guidance serves to supplement the Maryland Medical Protocols for Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Providers.

DEFINITIONS

Base Station Control Physician – A licensed physician from a MIEMMS approved base station hospital.

PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

1. On Scene

The EMS Provider is responsible for advising the on-scene physician of their responsibilities regarding the immediate notification of the State EMS Director and written documentation requirements, and review by the Maryland State Board of Physicians Quality Assurance. Refer to Section 1.7.2 and 1.8 of the Protocol for specifics.

A physician on the scene may function as control physician, provided the following conditions are met:

- Proof of Identity - Identity as a physician is established.
 - For incidents occurring in a doctor's office, or in a patient's home when the family identifies the physician, the identity as a physician may be accepted.
 - For other locations, any person representing themselves as a physician must produce picture and medical identification: e.g., Maryland Board of Medical Examiners, the State Medical Board, Military Medical, or Hospital Staff.
- Physician/Medical Control Communication – The EMS Provider shall establish direct communication through EMRC for the on-scene physician. This communication must include a physician at an approved base station facility and the receiving facility, if different. This communication must occur prior to the transport unit's departure from the scene.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

- If the care provided by the physician exceeds the training level of the providers, the physician must be released by the base station control physician or he/she must accompany the patient to the hospital.
- If the care provided by the physician does not exceed the training level of the providers, and they are comfortable with the care and transport, the physician does not need to be released by the base station control physician, nor accompany the patient to the receiving facility.

EMS Providers shall perform appropriate care as described in the Maryland Medical Protocols for Prehospital Emergency Medical Services providers.

2. Conflict Resolution

In circumstances that require conflict resolution: e.g., failed proof of identity or orders that exceed provider's level of training):

- Consult with a physician at an approved base station facility through EMRC. Summarize the preceding events, interventions performed, current orders, and discuss appropriate care within the scope of the Protocol.
- If the control physician and the on-scene physician cannot resolve the conflict, the orders of the control physician shall supersede the orders of the on scene physician.
- Should the physicians be in agreement, the orders will be complied with, unless it is unlawful.

3. Physicians Orders for Extraordinary Care

The Protocol clearly identifies the physician's and EMS provider's responsibility regarding delivery treatments and procedures regarded as extraordinary care.

An on scene physician may order extraordinary care as long as the following conditions regarding medical control are met:

- Proof of Identity – The identity of the physician has been established as described above.
- Physician Responsibility - The on scene physician must agree to accompany the patient to the hospital.
- Physician/Medical Control Communication – The EMS Provider shall establish direct communication through EMRC for the on-scene physician. This communication must include a physician at an approved base station facility and the receiving facility, if different. This communication must occur prior to the extraordinary care, if practical.
 - If the physician at the base station facility accepts responsibility for the extraordinary care orders, the on-scene physician is not required to accompany the patient to the hospital.
 - If the physician at the base station facility refuses to accept responsibility for the extraordinary care orders, the on-scene physician must accompany the patient to the hospital.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

All EMS Providers involved in an incident where extraordinary care was ordered, regardless of whether or not it was rendered, shall immediately contact EMS Duty Officer (EMS801) and file a Medical Incident Report as described in General Order 05-11.

REFERENCES

Maryland Medical Protocols for Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Providers

FORMS / ATTACHMENTS

N/A