

It is well recognized that physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals who are at the scene of an EMS response may feel obliged to render patient care. Despite their willingness to assist, they may be unfamiliar with prehospital care and the protocols and procedures associated with this care. EMS personnel must consider the relative merits and difficulties associated with assistance from medical professionals at the scene. EMS personnel must recognize that although other medical professionals have knowledge and skills that may be valuable in providing care, EMS personnel are trained to provide care in the out-of-hospital environment. It is for this reason that EMS personnel must direct activities at the scene. The other medical professionals may assist EMS personnel and act as a resource, but EMS personnel must provide scene direction and coordination of patient care activities.

GENERAL

- EMS personnel have a duty to respond to an emergency, conduct an assessment, and initiate treatment of the patient to the extent possible
- a physician or other medical professional who voluntarily offers or renders medical assistance at an emergency scene is generally considered a “Good Samaritan”
 - if the physician or other medical professional initiates treatment he/she is responsible for the care provided until a transfer of care to appropriate EMS personnel takes place
- good patient care should be the focus of any interaction between EMS personnel and physician or other medical professionals
- every situation involving a physician or other medical professional will be different, depending on the situation, the patient’s condition, and the physician or other medical professional
- in all cases, the physician or medical professional must present EMS personnel with valid identification confirming the individual is appropriately licensed to provide care in Manitoba

INTERACTIONS with PHYSICIANS

- if a physician at the scene appropriately* identifies him/herself and wishes to intervene in patient care, EMS personnel will present the physician with the **Non-EMS System Medical Interveners** information
- the on-scene physician’s requests concerning emergency care and movement of the patient should be followed provided they do not conflict with established guidelines and protocols
 - if the requests are inconsistent with established guidelines and protocols, the physician should be made aware of this fact
 - online medical control should be contacted, if available
- the on-scene physician’s name, address, telephone number, and other pertinent contact information must be noted in the patient care report
- *ideally, appropriate identification is any document that confirms the physician is registered with The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba
 - registered physicians have wallet cards documenting their status
 - if the physician at the scene is unable to provide identification, or is licensed in a jurisdiction other than Manitoba, and the physician (in the judgment of the EMS crew on the scene) appears knowledgeable and willing to provide help, the EMS crew may permit the physician to provide assistance
 - the ability of a physician to provide potentially life-saving care should not be impeded due to issues of identification and jurisdiction

GENERAL: Other Medical Professional on Scene

- time permitting, in the event identification cannot be confirmed, online medical control should be contacted (if available)
 - proceed as directed by the online medical control physician

INTERACTIONS with MIDWIVES

- refer to the section on EMS Personnel and Midwives in Treatment Guideline M10 – Obstetrical Emergencies

INTERACTIONS with OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (not including midwives)

- if a non-physician health care professional at the scene appropriately* identifies him/herself and wishes to intervene in patient care, EMS personnel will present the non-physician with the **Non-EMS System Medical Interveners** information
- non-physician health care professionals have no authority to direct EMS personnel
- non-physician health care professionals may possess certain skills EMS personnel do not possess
 - EMS personnel may request the non-physician health care professional to utilize their skills in the interest of optimal patient care
 - the on-scene health care professional may be permitted to provide care
 - any care provided must be within their scope of practice and does not conflict with established EMS guidelines and protocols
 - if the care is inconsistent with established guidelines and protocols, the health care professional should be made aware of this fact
 - EMS personnel should maintain patient care and no longer permit the health care professional to be involved in patient care
 - online medical control should be contacted, if available
- the health care professional's name, address, telephone number, and other pertinent contact information must be noted in the patient care report
- *appropriate identification is limited to any document that confirms the health care provider is registered with the provincial registration authority
 - registered individuals should have and carry wallet cards documenting their status
 - in the event identification cannot be confirmed, online medical control should be contacted (if available)
 - proceed as directed by the online medical control physician

NOTE

- EMS personnel
 - provide care under the auspices of the Regional Health Authority and its Medical Director
 - can only carry out medical acts as designated by a physician licensed in Manitoba, and only if the acts are within the EMS personnel's scope of practice
 - cannot accept direction from non-physician health care providers
 - this fact should not prevent EMS personnel from utilizing other health care professionals should the need arise and the skills of these professionals be required
- under no circumstances should another health care professional be permitted to carry out any intervention that contravenes an established EMS policy, protocol, or guideline unless there is a valid, justified, and medically sound reason to do so
 - in these exceptional circumstances, advice from physician online medical control should be sought

GENERAL: Other Medical Professional on Scene

Non-EMS System Medical Interveners

Thank you for your assistance.

Please be advised that EMS personnel are providing care under the auspices of the Regional Health Authority and its Medical Director, in accordance with policies, procedures, and protocols established by the Emergency Services Branch, Manitoba Health. All procedures permitted and drugs carried are restricted by established protocols.

If you are currently providing care to the patient, you will be asked to relinquish care to the EMS personnel. Please do not intervene in the care of this patient unless:

- you are requested to do so by the EMS personnel
and
- capable of assisting or delivering more extensive emergency medical care at the scene.

EMS personnel acknowledge your abilities. Under certain circumstances, EMS personnel may request your assistance for particular aspects of care.

If you choose not to relinquish care of the patient, you **must be a licensed medical practitioner**, continue your patient management, and accept responsibility for the care you provide. The EMS personnel will assist you to the extent that their protocols and scope of practice permit, but any care provided to the patient will be **your responsibility**. The EMS personnel will not assist you in specific deviations from their protocols or permit non-authorized procedures or use of drugs. If you continue to provide patient care, you are required to accompany the patient to the hospital. This is required in order to maintain continuity of care and permit transfer care to the physician at the receiving hospital.

Thank you for offering your assistance during this emergency.