

**Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board  
POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: <b>Dec. 13, 2013</b>
Topic: 4. Operations Directives	Replaces: May 30,2010
Subject: 36. Physicians Orders	
Policy No. G.4.36.	Page 1 of 2

**PURPOSE**

To document the expectation of Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB EMS regarding the conduct of Paramedics when they receive patient care orders from a physician.

**APPLICATION**

Paramedics, EMAs

**PROCEDURE**

- 1) Definitions:
  - a) Paramedic: A person qualified under the Ambulance Act, who, in the course of providing ambulance service to a patient in Ontario, attends, assists or renders first aid or emergency medical care.
  - b) Physician: A duly qualified medical practitioner who is licensed to practice medicine in Ontario.
  - c) **Base Hospital Physician: A licensed physician hired by a base hospital that has met MOHLTC requirement to act as a "Base Hospital". The base hospital physician must comply with the policies of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario policy #4-03, which provides direction to Ontario physicians on the delegation of controlled acts.**
  - d) Patient Care Order: Any verbal or written direction to perform a basic life support or **advanced life support procedure**. This does not include orders regarding transportation to a health facility.
  
- 2) **Paramedics cannot provide patient care that is beyond Manitoulin Sudbury DSB EMS authorization, beyond MOHLTC Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards or a delegated controlled act that he/she has not been certified to provide by a Base Hospital Physician.**
  - a) **If a Base Hospital physician gives an order that is beyond the paramedics' scope of practice, the paramedic is to inform the physician that he is not qualified to perform the procedure.**
  - b) **An order from a Base Hospital Physician must not be made via third party**
  
- 3) **Paramedics are not permitted to take medical orders from physicians that are not part of the Base Hospital Program.**
  - a) **If a Non-Base Hospital physician gives a patient care order that involves ALS standards (delegated acts) to a Paramedic, the Paramedic will inform the Physician that they are not permitted to conduct delegated acts unless given by their Base Hospital Physician.**

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- b) If there is a Physician on-scene that is taking control of patient care let them know that they have assumed responsibility for patient care and that you can help in any way within your scope of practice (for example BLS procedures, but not unapproved ALS procedures).
- c) If the Paramedic is unfamiliar with the **physician taking control of patient care**, the Paramedic should attempt to ascertain if the person is a “physician” as defined in this policy statement. If the Paramedic is unable to satisfy him/herself that the person is a physician, the Paramedic should **attend to the patient as per BLS/ALS standards**.
- d) If the Paramedic is unsure that the care by the physician is appropriate for the patient, the Paramedic should endeavour to advise the physician of his/her concerns, **and contact the base hospital physician if the concern subsequently still exists**. The Paramedic should carefully document the incident including the reasons **why he/she was uncomfortable with physician patient care**.

**REFERENCE**

Emergency Health Services Branch (2007), *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standard, Version 2.0*, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care