

TITLE: PHYSICIAN'S ORDERS	SECTION: LAND AMBULANCE
DATE: June 18, 2001	POLICY NO.: KDSB-LAS-VI-01
APPROVED BY: Resolution No. 2001-102	REVISED:

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Ambulance staff will adhere to the following guidelines when receiving patient care orders from a physician.

While generally applicable, the primary intention of this statement is to clarify the Ministry's expectations with regard to basic life support patient care orders rather than the delegation of acts in the practice of medicine.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Physician

A duly qualified medical practitioner who is licensed to practice medicine in Ontario.

2.2 Patient Care Orders

Any verbal or written directions to perform a BLS procedure. This does not include orders regarding transportation to a health facility.

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 If a physician gives patient care orders to ambulance staff and those orders are carried out by ambulance staff, the physician giving the orders will be deemed to have assumed responsibility for patient care.
- 3.2 If ambulance staff are unfamiliar with the person giving patient care orders, the ambulance staff should attempt to ascertain if the person is a "physician" as defined in this policy statement. If ambulance staff are unable to satisfactorily identify that person as a physician, the Paramedic should not carry out the patient care orders.
- 3.3 Ambulance staff must remain sensitive to the changing condition and needs of the patient. If ambulance staff are unsure that the orders of a physician are appropriate for the patient, ambulance staff should endeavour to advise the physician of any concerns and re-check the order. If ambulance staff are unable to carry out an order or decides that carrying out the order would not be in the best interest of the patient, ambulance staff should carefully document the incident including the reasons why the order was not carried out.
- 3.4 Ambulance staff receiving patient care orders from a physician should document the orders given, the time they were given, the name of the physician giving the orders and whether or not the orders were carried out by ambulance staff.
- 3.5 Written patient care orders must be signed by a physician. Verbal orders must be directed to the ambulance staff and cannot be relayed by a third party (e.g. nurse, dispatcher, other ambulance staff, bystanders, etc.)