



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Direction of Care by  
On-Scene Physician**

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## PURPOSE

At times Jackson Hole Fire/EMS providers will be contacted by Physicians, Physician's Assistants (PA) or Nurse Practitioners (NP) who may choose to assist with pre-hospital patient care. Some of these providers may choose to direct patient care and accompany the patient, in the ambulance, to the hospital. This policy guides EMS providers to transfer the direction of patient care to these physicians or mid-level providers prior to transport.

## SECTION I – DIRECTION OF CARE BY ON-SCENE PHYSICIAN OR MID-LEVEL PROVIDER

1. EMS providers on scene retain the responsibility for patient care until the requirements in this policy are satisfied. Dentists, chiropractors and veterinarians are not considered medical physicians on-the-scene of a medical emergency.
2. Within the guidelines of this policy, an on-scene physician, PA or NP may assume control of a patient's treatment if:
  - Authorized by the Medical Control, or
  - In the event of being unable to make radio contact with the Physician Medical Director or Medical Control, the on-scene physician or mid-level provider agrees to accompany the patient to the hospital and sign the patient's run sheet acknowledging the care rendered or directed.
  - Each physician or mid-level provider shall be given the following Physician Information Card which summarizes this policy prior to transport.

**JACKSON HOLE FIRE/EMS  
PHYSICIAN INFORMATION CARD**

These personnel are providing medical care under the authority of Jackson Hole Fire/EMS. They operate under the direct medical control of a hospital based emergency room physician at St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming. Assistance or suggestions, either to them or to the base hospital are welcome. Orders, however, must be given from the base hospital. **If you wish to direct the medical care of this patient, ask to speak to the Medical Control. It is his/her decision whether to permit this.** If you choose to assume control, **you must accompany the patient to the hospital and sign the Patient Care Report**, acknowledging the care you rendered and/or directed. Your offer of assistance is greatly appreciated, as is your compliance with this policy.  
Thank you.

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1. Ask if the practitioner is willing to assume all responsibility for the patient's treatment.  
NOTE: Patient care is not delayed while these decisions are made.
2. If the physician or mid-level provider is not willing to assume full responsibility for treatment and to accompany the patient in the ambulance, EMS must stay with their own course of treatment under their standard medical control (i.e. existing protocols and SJMC ED physician).
3. When responding to a medical facility where there is a physician, PA or NP present, who is providing care for the patient, JHF/EMS personnel will follow the orders of said practitioner provided those orders fall within the EMT's scope of practice, policies and treatment protocols as defined by the state EMS office, Jackson Hole Fire/EMS and their Physician Medical Director.
4. When documenting treatment directed by a physician or mid-level provider other than on-line medical control, document that provider's name, address and, if possible, medical license number and state that issues it. If the circumstance was such that the practitioner accompanied the patient in the ambulance, that practitioner must sign the EMS Patient Care Report (PCR) accepting responsibility for the treatment rendered.