

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **ROLE OF THE BASE HOSPITAL**

REFERENCE NO. 304

PURPOSE: To define the role of the base hospital in the Los Angeles County emergency medical services (EMS) system.

AUTHORITY: Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, 1797.56, 1797.58, 1797.59  
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100168  
Paramedic Base Hospital Agreement

DEFINITION:

**Base Hospital:** A base hospital is one of a limited number of hospitals which, upon designation by and completion of a written contractual agreement with the EMS Agency, is responsible for providing medical direction and destination to prehospital care personnel within the Los Angeles County EMS system according to standardized procedures consistent with statewide guidelines.

**Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN):** A registered nurse who has been authorized by the medical director of the EMS Agency as qualified to provide prehospital advanced life support or to issue instructions to EMS personnel within the Los Angeles County EMS system according to standardized procedures consistent with statewide guidelines.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:


A designated base hospital shall:

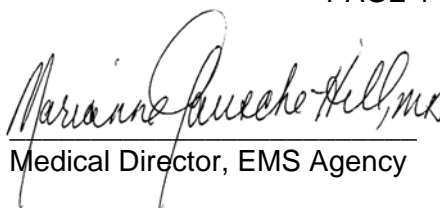
- I. Be licensed by the California State Department of Public Health as a general acute care hospital.
- II. Have a special permit for basic or comprehensive emergency medicine service.
- III. Be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or any accreditation deemed acceptable by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- IV. Meet or exceed standards for Emergency Departments Approved for Pediatrics, unless exempted in writing by the Medical Director of the Los Angeles County EMS Agency.
- V. Have a written contractual agreement with the local EMS Agency indicating concurrence of hospital administration, medical staff, and emergency department staff to meet the requirements for program participation as specified by the California Code of Regulations Section 100168.
- VI. Implement and monitor the policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines approved by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency for prehospital medical direction.
- VII. Designate a Base Hospital Medical Director who shall be responsible for functions of the base hospital. The Base Hospital Medical Director shall be a physician on the hospital staff, licensed in the State of California and Board Certified in Emergency Medicine by

EFFECTIVE: 6-1-1979  
REVISED: 07-01-2016  
SUPERSEDES: 07-01-2013

PAGE 1 OF 3

APPROVED:

  
Director, EMS Agency

  
Medical Director, EMS Agency

the American Board of Emergency Medicine or the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

- VIII. Have a physician, licensed in the State of California and be board certified in emergency Medicine or have satisfied the requirements to take the emergency medical board examination (board-eligible), or have completed the Advanced Cardiac Life Support training program, assigned to the emergency department and available at all times to provide immediate medical direction to mobile intensive care nurses (MICNs) or paramedic personnel.
- IX. Designate an MICN, certified in the County of Los Angeles, as a Prehospital Care Coordinator to assist the Base Hospital Medical Director in the medical control, supervision of prehospital emergency medical care personnel and maintains the daily operations of the base hospital.
- X. Ensure that all base hospital physicians and MICNs who provide medical direction and supervision meet all the requirements set forth in the Paramedic Base Hospital Agreement.
- XI. Provide immediate medical control and supervision of prehospital triage, treatment, advanced life support, and transport via direct voice communication with the paramedics by a base hospital physician or MICN who is certified in the County of Los Angeles.
- XII. Order only those medical procedures and drugs authorized by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency. The base hospital physician has the ultimate responsibility for determining the patient's treatment and disposition.
- XIII. Provide formal education programs for prehospital care personnel in collaboration with assigned provider agencies as outlined in the Paramedic Base Hospital Agreement and Reference No. 1013, EMS Continuing Education Provider Approval and Program Requirements.
- XIV. Ensure retention of all prehospital care records.
- XV. Participate in the data collection process outlined in the Paramedic Base Hospital Agreement.
- XVI. Review the quality of prehospital care rendered for appropriateness and adequacy, and participates in the local EMS Agency's quality improvement program, which may include making available all relevant records for program monitoring and evaluation.
- XVII. Comply with the specifications for hospital-owned Paramedic Communications System (PCS) equipment as outlined in the Paramedic Base Hospital Agreement in effect.
- XVIII. Comply with program monitoring by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency.
- XIX. Report any action of certified or licensed prehospital personnel which may potentially constitute a violation under Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code. Any other items of concern resulting from an apparent deficiency in medical care may also be reported.
- XX. Participate in the ReddiNet communication system.

XXI. Comply with all provisions set forth in the Paramedic Base Hospital Agreement in effect.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Manual:

- Ref. No. 201, **Medical Management of Prehospital Care**
- Ref. No. 214, **Base Hospital and Provider Agency Reporting Responsibilities**
- Ref. No. 308, **Base Hospital Medical Director**
- Ref. No. 310, **Prehospital Care Coordinator**
- Ref. No. 606, **Documentation of Prehospital Care**
- Ref. No. 610, **Retention of Prehospital Care Records**
- Ref. No. 620, **EMS Quality Improvement Program**
- Ref. No. 716, **Paramedic Communications System**
- Ref. No. 803, **Paramedic Scope of Practice**
- Ref. No. 808, **Base Hospital Contact and Transport Criteria**
- Ref. No. 1013 **EMS Continuing Education Provider Approval and Program Requirements**
- Ref. Nos. 1200, **Treatment Protocols**
- Ref. Nos. 1300, **Medical Control Guidelines**