Purpose:

To provide guidelines for prehospital personnel who encounter a physician or other medical interveners at the scene of an emergency.

General Principles:

1. The prehospital provider generally has a duty to respond to an emergency, initiate treatment and conduct an assessment of the patient to the extent possible.
2. EMTs of all certification levels provide legal patient care under the medical license of the Medical Director.
3. A physician who voluntarily offers or renders medical assistance at an emergency scene is generally considered a "Good Samaritan." However, once a physician initiates treatment, he/she may feel a physician-patient relationship has been established.
4. Bystander nurses and EMTs of all levels have no legal authority, but should be treated respectfully.
5. Good patient care should be the focus of any interaction between prehospital care providers and the on-scene intervener.

Procedure:

1. Physician Interveners:
   a. Respectfully request credentials.
   b. Request that the physician read the statement below.
2. All other medical providers:
   a. Introduce yourself and state your level of certification.
   b. Politely and respectfully begin transition of care by requesting patient care information.
   c. Inform provider that you function under established protocols, have responsibility for the patient and intend to render care according to your protocols.
3. If the intervener refuses to relinquish care after the above steps have been taken, and you believe that it is in the patient's best interest that they do so:
   a. Contact Medical Control and have the intervener speak with the ER physician to clarify responsibility.

   b. Request law enforcement assistance if necessary.

Notes:

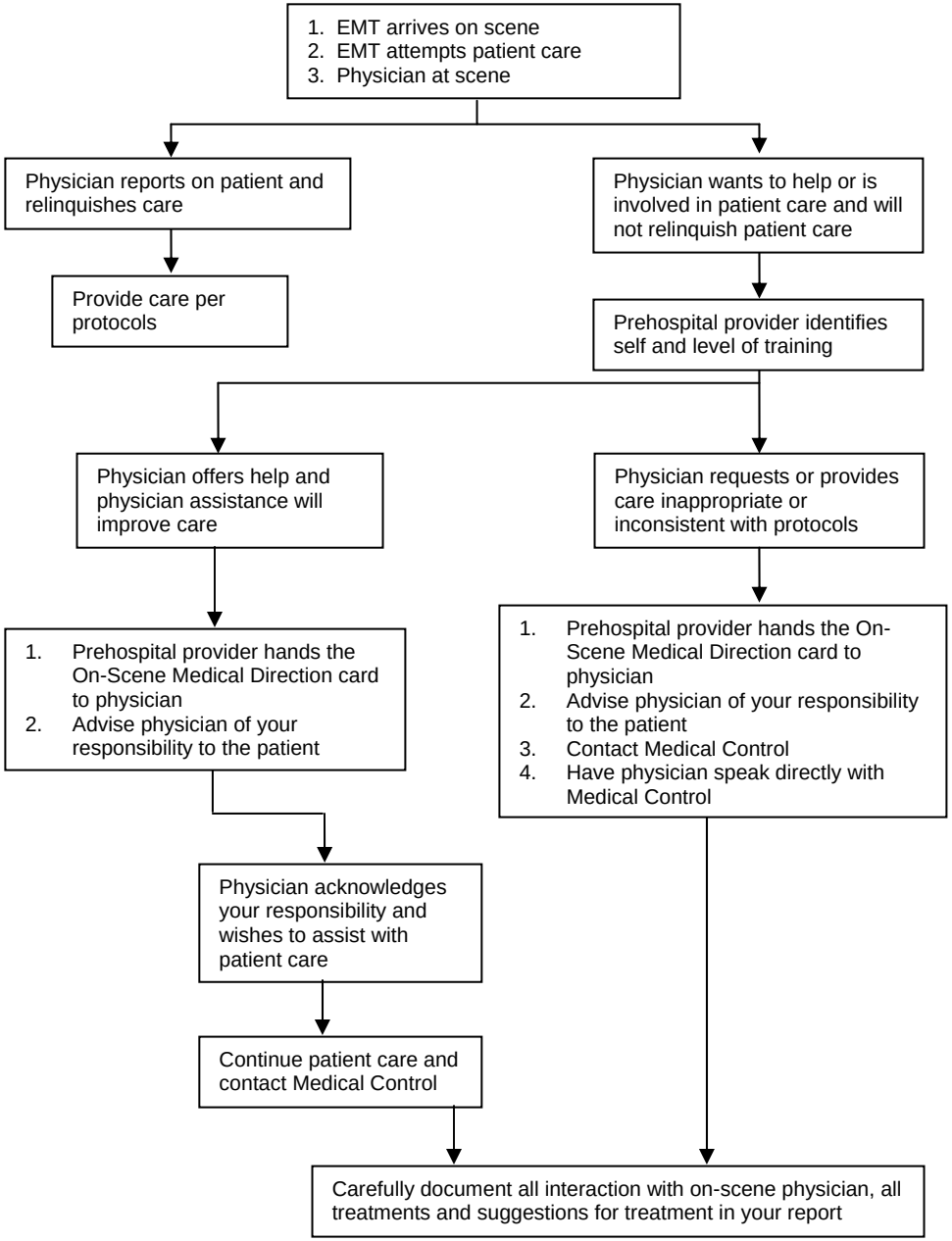
1. Every situation may be different; on-scene medically trained bystanders can often be helpful, but occasionally hinder patient care.
2. Always remain respectful and in control of emotions. The best way to remain in control of the situation is to not let it escalate.
3. On-scene medical providers may also be family members.
4. **Contact Medical Control** for assistance when any question arises.
5. On scene physician statement:

On Scene Physician Information

Thank you for your offer of assistance. Please be advised that these Emergency Medical Technicians are operating under the authority of a Medical Director through standing medical orders in the La Plata County emergency medical system.

To avoid confusion and expedite patient care, no individual should intervene in the care of this patient unless the individual is:

1. Requested to do so by the emergency medical services personnel.
2. Authorized by the medical oversight physician.
3. Is legally capable of providing more extensive emergency medical care at the scene.

IF YOU ASSUME PATIENT MANAGEMENT, YOU ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATIENT CARE UNTIL THE ATTENDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL OR MEDICAL OVERSIGHT PHYSICIAN ACCEPTS THAT PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY. THIS WILL REQUIRE THAT YOU ACCOMPANY THE PATIENT TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.

Physician at the Scene/ Medical Direction Algorithm