



Position Statement

Medical Direction of First Responders

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Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, Inc.

Trained¹ and certified emergency medical first responders are the first critical on-scene personnel of an emergency medical services system. Their care of a patient, while awaiting the arrival of higher trained EMS personnel, is the foundation upon which subsequent medical care is based.

First responders provide medical care regardless of the system or emergency discipline in which they may work (EMS, fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, etc.) and regardless of serving in a paid or volunteer capacity. The quality, effectiveness and appropriateness of first responders' actions has a direct impact upon the care of their patient.

To assure the quality, effectiveness and appropriateness of care given by first responders, as well as assuring the first responders' role in the continuum of care within the emergency medical services system, medical oversight by a qualified physician should be required of any first responder that has a duty to respond to medical emergencies. As these first responders provide prehospital medical care their actions should be directed by the same entity that directs the actions of EMT-level EMS responders: the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners.

1 U.S. Department of Transportation First Responder National Standard Curriculum

