

# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 565
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References	Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code	Effective 02/01/94

## I. POLICY

EMS personnel (providing services for an approved EMS provider agency) shall follow established procedures when caring for a patient receiving "patient controlled therapy" outside the hospital setting.

## II. DEFINITION

Patient Controlled Therapy: Therapy ordered by the patient's private physician to be administered or maintained by the patient or by the patient's care-giver which may include, but is not limited to central intravenous access lines, such as Broviac, intravenous antibiotics, hyperalimentation by peripheral or central intravenous line, external pumps for the infusion of cancer chemotherapy, foley catheters, nasogastric feeding tubes, gastrostomy feeding tubes, and other devices.

## III. PURPOSE

EMS personnel may encounter a patient who is receiving patient controlled therapy that is administered and/or monitored by the patient or by the patient's care-giver. In these cases, maintenance of such care is appropriate, but generally outside of the scope of EMS personnel. In order to continue this care, this procedure will allow the patient or patient's care-giver to maintain patient controlled therapy during the patient's transport to or from an acute care hospital by EMS personnel.

## IV. PROCEDURE

- A. EMS personnel who encounter a patient with patient controlled therapy who is being transported to or from home or skilled nursing facility shall:
  1. Confirm the patient's destination with the facility medical staff, patient, care-giver, or family
  2. Prior to transporting the patient, ask the patient or his/her care-giver if they understand the care and monitoring of the device or therapy.
    - a. If the patient or patient's care-giver understands its operation, continue the transport while allowing them to control such therapy.

Approved By	Revision
EMS Division Manager <b>Daniel J. Lynch</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	<b>04/19/2005</b>
EMS Medical Director <b>Jim Andrews, M.D.</b> (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

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- b. If the patient or patient's care-giver does not understand the care and monitoring of the device or therapy and the patient is being transported:
      - (1) From an acute care hospital, private physician office, or medical clinic to home or to a skilled nursing facility, EMS personnel should contact the medical personnel at the transferring facility in charge of the patient's care to clarify the proper use, care and monitoring of the device or therapy with the patient and/or care-giver.
      - (2) From home to an acute care hospital, private physician office or skilled nursing facility, EMS personnel shall contact a Base Hospital for direction on whether to continue or discontinue the therapy or device during transport.
  3. Assist with the moving of equipment.
  4. Allow the patient or care-giver to completely control delivery of the therapy.
  5. If the patient is too ill to manage their controlled therapy, EMS personnel shall contact a Base Hospital for direction.
- B. EMS personnel who encounter a patient with patient controlled therapy shall NOT:
  1. Remove the device; or
  2. Alter the therapy unless directed to do so by the Base Hospital. If asked by the patient or patient's care-giver to assist the patient or patient's care-giver in minor adjustments to the therapy, contact a Base Hospital.
- C. Documentation - Document all patient controlled therapy/device(s) on the patient Prehospital Care Report.