

# RIDE-ALONG PROGRAMS

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## RIDE-ALONG 2006

Only one observer may routinely accompany an ambulance crew.

- # The role of "ride-along" personnel is to observe rather than participate.
  - # If the ambulance crew requests that the observer assist them, and if the observer is medically qualified to perform in the requested capacity, he/she may assist in patient care activities.
  - # Observers will not interfere with field personnel as they perform their duties. The observer will follow instructions given by the field personnel. (If requested to remain silent or to stay out of the way, the observer will comply with this request.)
  - # When a physician or MICN is "riding-along" with an ALS mobile unit, medical control should be maintained in the standard manner through radio communication with the ALS Base Hospital. In the event that radio communication cannot be established and/or maintained, the Paramedic/II's will follow the established ALS protocols as specified. In the event that radio communications are disrupted and the accompanying physician requests that the Paramedic/II provide medical interventions that are not consistent with the established ALS protocol and are within the Paramedic/II's scope of practice, the physician will assume full responsibility for the patient's prehospital medical care, and an EMS Unusual Occurrence will be immediately initiated by the Paramedic/II on arrival to the receiving facility. The notification must be received by the Base Hospital within 24 hours so that the EMS Agency receives notification within 72 hours.
  - # The Ambulance Provider may require observers to sign a waiver releasing the Provider from responsibility for any injury incurred by the observer while "riding-along." This waiver may stipulate additional liability agreements.
  - # The Ambulance Provider may deny permission to "ride-along" or may terminate a "ride-along" for just cause, including but not limited to:
    - # The observer is not appropriately attired.
    - # The observer does not comply with the crews direction.
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DATE: April 2000  
REVIEW: June 2002