

## MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AT THE SCENE

Medical professionals at the scene of an emergency may provide assistance to paramedics and should be treated with professional courtesy. Medical professionals who offer their assistance should identify themselves. Physicians should provide proof of their identity, if they wish to assume or retain responsibility for the care given the patient after the arrival of the EMS unit (**See Relationship between Advanced Life Support Team and Private Physician**).

In addition to physicians, EMS personnel may encounter other health care professionals at the scene, such as physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurses. In general, the following statements should guide the EMS personnel's interaction with other health care providers at the scene of an emergency:

- ✓ EMS personnel who arrive first on the scene and initiate care must continue treatment of the patient until the patient can be placed under the supervision of personnel with equal or greater competence.
- ✓ EMS personnel should not perform any procedure for which they do not possess training, certification, and fall within the guidelines of MPD protocols, even if they are requested to do so by another provider.
- ✓ When there is lack of clarity as to whether a procedure is appropriate, EMS personnel should always be instructed to contact medical control.
- ✓ When EMS personnel encounter physicians or other health care providers who insist on taking charge of patient care, they should contact medical control for instructions before releasing the patient.
- ✓ Well trained health care providers should be encouraged to assist when and where appropriate.