



TERRITORY OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AGAÑA, GUAM 96910
U. S. A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2002-09

RELATIVE TO CONSOLIDATION OF GUAM'S OFF-LINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) MEDICAL OVERSIGHT.

WHEREAS, pre-hospital emergency medical care prevents the loss of life and human tissue; and

WHEREAS, the government of Guam operates an organized Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System that provides such pre-hospital emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, Federal Law No. 93-154, the "Emergency Medical Services System Act of 1973", establishes that physician involvement in EMS systems is critical; and

WHEREAS, experience has shown that three separate, yet critical components of physician involvement exist within EMS systems, namely:

1. On-line medical control of EMTs: physician-EMT communication with regard to the medical care of a patient while pre-hospital care is in progress. This usually occurs in the form of medical orders and scene management orders communicated by radio/phone from emergency department physicians to EMTs regarding the care of a patient in the field; and
2. Off-line medical oversight over personnel providing EMS medical care: prospective, concurrent and retroactive medical oversight over personnel such as EMTs, 911 dispatchers, on-line medical control physicians, and other on-line emergency department staff. This oversight extends to various tasks, including quality improvement and EMS education, and is carried out by one or more physicians under various titles, i.e. "Off-line EMS Medical Control Physician", "Administrative Medical Control Physician", etc. These physicians typically work at either individual EMS agencies or at a hospital that has been tasked with off-line medical oversight over the system's EMS medical care; and
3. Medical direction of the EMS System: medical direction provided by one or more physicians who work at a state/regional department of public health's EMS office, typically under the title of "State/Regional EMS Medical Director" or "System EMS Medical Director". The State/Regional EMS Medical Director is usually tasked with assisting the State/Regional EMS Office with the continued development of an EMS System that will support the highest quality care possible at a given location; and

WHEREAS, Guam mandates physician involvement in Guam's EMS System on all three of the above-mentioned levels;



1. Guam on-line medical control of EMTs is mandated by Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPH&SS) EMS Office's "EMS Policies and Protocols; and
2. Guam off-line medical oversight over government of Guam personnel providing EMS medical care is mandated by Guam Public Law No. 24-59, which created a position at the Guam Fire Department (GFD) for a physician to provide off-line EMS medical oversight over the GFD EMTs and 911 dispatchers; and
3. Medical direction of Guam's EMS System is mandated by §84102 of Division 4 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated, which created a position at Guam's DPH&SS EMS Office for a Guam EMS Medical Director by stating: "EMS Medical Director means a Guam licensed physician who provides overall medical direction for the island wide Emergency Medical Services System"; and

WHEREAS, effective physician involvement in an EMS System on all three of the above mentioned levels is critical for minimizing the loss of life after an act of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Guam, due to its strategic location in the Pacific Asia Region and its role as a first line of defense for the United States, is under an increased threat of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Public Law No. 24-59 does not provide off-line EMS medical oversight over all of government of Guam's pre-hospital EMTs, dispatchers, and on-line emergency department personnel; and

WHEREAS, extending off-line EMS medical oversight to all of the government of Guam pre-hospital EMTs, dispatchers, and on-line emergency department personnel by creating more individual agency "Off-line Medical Control Physician" positions, for example, a GFD Medical Control Physician, an Airport Rescue and Fire (ARF) Medical Control Physician, a 911 Medical Control Physician, and a Guam Memorial Hospital Medical Control Physician would: 1) be unnecessarily expensive; 2) fragment the medical oversight over Guam's EMTs, dispatchers, and on-line emergency department personnel; and 3) increase the risk of an uncoordinated EMS response to a terrorist attack; and

WHEREAS, establishing a single, island-wide source of off-line EMS medical oversight over all of the government of Guam pre-hospital EMTs, 911 dispatchers, and on-line emergency department personnel is: 1) cost and personnel efficient; 2) assures uniform off-line medical oversight over the government of Guam's pre-hospital medical care; and 3) decreases the risk of an uncoordinated EMS response to a terrorist attack,


NOW, THEREFORE, I, CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ, I Maga'Lahen Guåhan, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do order:

1. **Creation of unified source of off-line EMS medical oversight.** A single, island-wide source of off-line EMS medical oversight over all of the government of Guam pre-hospital EMTs, 911 dispatchers, and on-line emergency department personnel shall be established at the Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH) under the name of "Division of EMS"; and



2. **Designation of Off-line EMS Medical Control Physician.** A GMHA Emergency Department staff physician with either formal training or extensive experience in EMS shall be the head of this Division under the title of "Off-line EMS Medical Control Physician" and this physician shall operate as an agent of GMHA under the guidance of the Guam EMS Medical Director; and
3. **Designation of second Off-line Medical Control Physician for Pediatric pre-hospital care.** Following recommendations of the Federal Program of EMS for Children, the involvement of a GMHA Emergency Department Staff Pediatrician as a second Off-line EMS Medical Control Physician, namely, as an "Off-line EMS Medical Control Physician-Pediatrics" is highly encouraged; this pediatrician shall, as an agent of GMHA, oversee the pre-hospital medical care provided specifically to children; and
4. **Designation of an EMS Medical Supervisor.** The Division of EMS at the GMHA shall have One (1) full-time "EMS Medical Supervisor" who shall be a paramedic or registered nurse with EMS experience, and who shall work under the guidance of the Off-line Medical Control Physician; and
5. **GMHA to provide administrative and educational resources to Division of EMS.** GMHA shall make available adequate GMHA administrative and educational resources to support the new Division of EMS's mission; and
6. **GFD Medical Director's Office to close.** The GFD Medical Director's Office shall cease to exist and the tasks of the GFD Medical Director's Office, as well as funding is transferred to the GMHA to be used for funding the positions and functions associated with the new Division of EMS; and
7. **EMS agencies to share resources.** In recognition of the multi-agency nature of EMS Medical Direction, all agencies involved with EMS on Guam shall, within, reason, share personnel and other resources with each other across agency lines in an effort to assure the uninterrupted and effective existence of all three levels of physician involvement in Guam's EMS System; and
8. **EMS agencies to collaborate on needed legislative amendments.** All agencies involved shall work collaboratively and under the lead of Guam's EMS Medical Director to present to the Guam Legislature the needed amendments to Public Law No. 24-59 to reflect the restructuring of EMS Medical Direction on Guam.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam this 5th day of April, 2002.



CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ
I Maga'Lahen Guåhan
Governor of Guam