

# AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE (AMA)

## Indication

- For patients or Designated Decision Maker (DDM) refusing medical care against the advice of the medical personnel on scene or of the receiving hospital

- All patients requesting medical attention will be offered treatment and/or transportation after a complete assessment, including a full set of vital signs
- Mentally competent patients/DDMs have the right to accept or refuse any or all pre-hospital care and transportation as long as EMS personnel have explained the care and the patient/DDM understands by restating the nature and implications of such decisions

- The following information must be provided to the patient or DDM by EMS personnel:
  - The recommended treatment and benefits for receiving care
  - The risks and possible complications involved
  - Reasonable consequences for not seeking care and treatment for the condition
  - Alternative care and transport options which may include private transport to a clinic, physician's office or an Emergency Department, or telephone consultation with a physician

- Have patient/DDM sign the AMA form
- If patient refuses to sign, document on PCR

### **📞 PHYSICIAN CONSULT- required**

- Patient requests transport to a facility that is not the recommended destination, and that decision would create a life-threatening or high-risk situation
- Patient requests an out of county transport when informed of the recommended destination within Marin County
- Pediatric brief resolved unexplained event (BRUE)

### **📞 PHYSICIAN CONSULT- strongly recommended**

- Patients  $\geq 65$  years requesting AMA with the complaint(s) of chest pain, SOB, syncope
- New onset of headache
- New onset of seizure
- TIA/resolving stroke symptoms
- Traumatic injuries (particularly head injury on anticoagulants)
- Pediatric complaints
- Pregnancy related issues

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider early involvement of law enforcement if there is any threat to self, others or grave disability
- Treat as necessary to prevent death or serious disability
- If the patient cannot legally refuse care or is mentally incapable of refusing care, document on the PCR that the patient required immediate treatment and/or transport, and lacked the mental capacity to understand the risks/consequences of the refusal (implied consent)
- Do not request a 5150 hold unless the patient presents a danger to self or others as an apparent result of a psychiatric problem
- At no time are field personnel to put themselves in danger by attempting to transport or treat a patient who refuses. At all times, good judgment should be used, appropriate assistance obtained, and supporting documentations completed

### CRITICAL INFORMATION

- Patients who may legally give consent or refuse medical treatment are as follows:
  - At least 18 years of age
  - A minor (<18 years) who is lawfully married/divorced, or on active duty with the armed forces
  - A minor who seeks prevention or treatment of pregnancy or sexual assault
  - A minor  $\geq 12$  years of age seeking treatment of rape, contagious diseases, alcohol or drug abuse
  - A self-sufficient minor,  $\geq 15$  years of age, caring for themselves
  - A legally emancipated minor
- DDM is an individual to whom the patient or a court has given legal authority to make medical decisions concerning the patient's healthcare (a parent or Durable Power of Attorney)
- An AMA may be obtained by telephone consent for patients who do not have a DDM physically present