# 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHYSICIAN CONSULT - required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient requests transport to a facility that is not the recommended destination, and that decision would create a life-threatening or high-risk situation</td>
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<td>Patient requests an out of county transport when informed of the recommended destination within Marin County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric brief resolved unexplained event (BRUE)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHYSICIAN CONSULT – strongly recommended, but not required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients ≥ 65 years requesting AMA with the following complaints:</td>
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<td>- Chest pain</td>
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<td>- SOB/ Dyspnea</td>
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<td>- Syncope</td>
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<td>- New onset of headache</td>
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<td>- New onset of seizure</td>
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<tr>
<td>- TIA/ resolving stroke symptoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Traumatic injuries (particularly head injury patients on anti-coagulants)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Pediatric complaints</td>
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<td>- Pregnancy related issues</td>
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</table>

**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 ≥12 years of age seeking treatment of rape, contagious diseases, alcohol or drug abuse
  - A self-sufficient minor, ≥ 15 year 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 from patients who do not have a DDM physically present

**TREATMENT/ PROCEDURE**
- All patients requesting medical attention will be offered treatment and/ or transportation after a complete assessment.
- Mentally competent patients/ DDMs have the right to accept or refuse any or all pre-hospital care and transportation as long as medical 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 the 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
EMS personnel should advise the patient of alternative care and transport options which may include:
- Private transport to a clinic, a physician’s office or an Emergency Department
- Telephone consultation with a physician
Have patient/ DDM sign the AMA form

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION
- 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.

DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
- Who activated 911 and the reason for the call
- Any medical care provided
- The apparent competency of the patient/DDM to sign out AMA
- The ability of the patient/DDM to verbalize understanding of his/her illness or injury, as well as any risks involved and potential outcomes for not receiving treatment or transport
- Reasons given by the patient/DDM for refusing care/transport and alternate plan for patient follow up if one has been stated
- The presence or absence of any impairment such as drugs or alcohol
- The patient/DDM understanding that they may re-access 911 if needed
- Signature of the patient/DDM on the AMA form, or reason why signature was not obtained

RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES
- Pediatric brief resolved unexplained event (BRUE) P14