

AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE (AMA)

ALWAYS USE STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

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

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, but not required

- Patients ≥ 65 years requesting AMA with the following complaints:
 - Chest pain
 - SOB/ Dyspnea
 - Syncope
- New onset of headache
- New onset of seizure
- TIA/ resolving stroke symptoms
- Traumatic injuries (particularly head injury patients on anti-coagulants)
- Pediatric complaints
- Pregnancy related issues

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