

SUBJECT: RIGHT OF REFUSAL	SECTION: 302.13
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PURPOSE

To clarify the EMT/Paramedic's responsibility when a patient refuses treatment and/or transport.

POLICY

A patient may refuse medical help and/or transportation, or once he has received treatment, refuse to be transported if he/she does not appear to be a threat to his self or others. Any person refusing treatment must be informed of the risks of not receiving emergency medical care and/or transportation. NOTE: Family members cannot refuse transportation of a patient to a hospital, UNLESS they have Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare.

PROCEDURE

- A. Assure an accurate patient assessment has been conducted to include; patient's complaint, history and objective findings, and patient's ability to make sound decisions.
- B. Explain to the patient the risk associated with their decision to refuse treatment and transportation.

High-risk refusals involve cases when the patient's condition may warrant delivery of care in accordance with implied consent of the Emergency Doctrine or other statutory provision. High risk refusals include, but are not limited to:

- High Risk - Head injury (signs, symptoms or mechanism)
 - Presence of alcohol or drugs
 - Significant mechanism of injury
 - Altered level of consciousness or impaired judgement
 - Minors (patient's 17 years-old or younger)
- C. Complete the Against Medical Advice/Refusal Form and have the patient sign the form located on the back of the patient care report. If a minor, this form must be signed by a legal guardian or Durable Power of Attorney for healthcare. (Parental refusals may be accepted by voice contact with the parent (i.e. telephone) if the EMS provider has made reasonable effort to confirm the identity of the parent.)

- D. A witness to the patient's release of services must also sign the AMA/Refusal form. If available, it is preferable to have a police officer at the scene act as the witness. If police are not present, any other bystander may act as witness.
- E. If the patient refuses medical help and/or transportation after having been informed of the risks of not receiving emergency medical care and also refuses to sign the release, clearly document the patient's refusal to sign the report, and have the entire crew witness the statement. Have an additional witness sign your statement, preferably a police officer. Include the officer's unit and badge number.