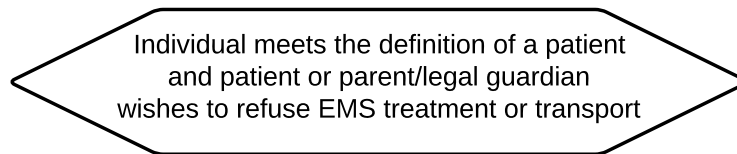


Patient Refusal of Transport Administrative Guideline



ALS/BLS General Administrative Guideline

Determine the patient's ability to make an informed decision
Judgment must not be impaired by illness, injury, or significant drug/alcohol intoxication per 6 item cognitive screen.
GCS score must be 15 or at the patient's baseline mental status

Document patient's ability to:

1. Understand and communicate the relevant information and risks of refusal of medical treatment or transport
2. Articulate a decision consistent with their understanding of the risks and justify that decision with logic that fits into the patient's own value system.

Perform appropriate assessment and provide appropriate medical care with the consent of the individual

- Obtain a complete set of vital signs
- Complete an initial assessment with particular attention to neurological and mental status.

Attempted suicide, verbalized suicidal intent, exhibit any other indicator of significant risk of danger to self or others

Yes

No

Patient must be evaluated by qualified mental health professional or transported to an appropriate facility to receive evaluation

Advise patient of the potential risks from refusal of medical care.

Consider contacting medical direction for assistance when provider is concerned for:

- potentially life-threatening condition
- possible physical/psychological abuse
- other concerns related to risk of refusal

Documentation of patient encounter required.

Education/Pearls

Decision-Making Capacity: An individual who is alert, oriented, and has the ability to understand the circumstances surrounding his/her illness or impairment, as well as the possible risks associated with refusing treatment and/or transport, typically is considered to have decision-making capacity. Decision-making capacity should be demonstrated and documented as defined by the presence of the following criteria. The patient must be able to:

- Receive and comprehend information needed to make a decision,
- Process and deliberate a decision and its potential consequences,
- Make and articulate a decision that is consistent over time,
- Justify that decision with logic that fits the individual's own value system.
- The individual's judgment must not be impaired by illness, injury, or clinically apparent drug/alcohol intoxication. GCS score must be >15

EMS providers should make all reasonable efforts to avoid danger to themselves.

Individuals must be advised of the risks and consequences resulting from refusal of medical care.

- Assess the patient's understanding of the medical emergency: the possible medical problems, the proposed medical care, the benefits of medical care and risks of refusal.
- Contact online medical direction based on local protocol.
- Document the patient encounter.

Pediatrics:

- It is preferable for a minor to have a parent or legal guardian who can provide consent for treatment on behalf of the minor. However, EMS providers may provide emergency treatment when a parent is not available to provide consent.
- **Minors cannot refuse care on their own behalf unless they have documentation of emancipation.**
 - **A parent or legal guardian must be contacted to refuse care for minor patients.**
- The provider should take additional means necessary to facilitate transport if abuse or neglect is suspected. Notify law enforcement as necessary to facilitate transport to the hospital.
- A DCS report should be made as required for suspected abuse or neglect.

Psychiatric illness:

- Patients may generally refuse EMS **medical** care even with petition for mandatory psychiatric evaluation.
- The only exception to this is patients with a revoked court order.

Six-item Cognitive Screen

Instructions to the patient: **I am going to tell you three words and then I want you to repeat them back to me.**

Please repeat - Apple - Table - Penny.

(You may repeat these three times as necessary)

1. What year is it? (1 point)
2. What Month is it? (1 point)
3. What Day of the week is it? (1 point)

What are the three objects I asked you to remember?

6. Apple (1 point)
7. Table (1 point)
8. Penny (1 point)

Score of less than 6 indicates impaired cognition.