

PATIENT REFUSAL STANDING ORDER - DRAFT

INCLUSION

A patient who agrees to have a medical evaluation and wishes to refuse treatment or transport,
Adult (age > 17 or emancipated minor), Adult with legal health care representative,
Minor with consent from guardian.



Perform appropriate medical care with the consent of the individual.

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



Assess Decision-Making Capacity

An individual who is alert, oriented, with 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.

The patient must be able to:

- Understand and communicate the relevant information and risks of refusal of medical treatment or transport.
- 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.
- The individual's judgement must not be impaired by illness, injury, or clinically apparent drug/alcohol intoxication.

Individuals who have attempted suicide, verbalized suicidal intent, or who otherwise exhibit indicators that lead EMS providers to reasonably suspect suicidal intent may not decline transport to a receiving facility. In addition, patients with court order for psychiatric care may not refuse care (see SAEMS Refusal Protocol).



Advise 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.
- Document capacity and attempts to encourage transport, including consideration of alternative transport methods.
- Contact on-line medical direction based on local protocol if there is concern about the patient's welfare or if high-risk refusal.

Minors

- Parent or legal guardian must refuse care on behalf of a minor.
- Parents may not refuse care if abuse or neglect is suspected. Notify law enforcement as necessary to facilitate transport to the hospital.
- Emancipated minors must provide state-issued emancipated identification card.

Recommended documentation:

- Decision making capacity
- Reason for declining treatment or transport
- Risks explained to the patient, who understands these risks of refusing treatment (including possible permanent disability or even death if not evaluated by a physician).
- Standing order for refusal used or name of base station physician authorizing refusal