

**Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee****Title: Refusal of Evaluation /
Stabilization / Transport Policy****Effective Date: February 19, 1997
Page: 1 of 3****Policy**

- a. When EMS personnel are called to a scene, all persons for whom the call was made will be offered evaluation/stabilization and transport to an appropriate facility. An appropriate facility may be the closest, or one designated by REMAC Transport Policy, or one designated by MC.
- b. Patients have the right to refuse evaluation or stabilization or transport provided:
 1. They are alert, oriented, not intoxicated (drugs or alcohol) and appear to possess a capacity to make an informed decision.
 2. They are not a danger to themselves or others.
- c. If the patient does not appear to possess capacity to make an informed decision due to intoxication or head injury etc., or if the patient appears to be a danger to him/herself or others, the patient should be transported. MC should be contacted. The police should be called to assist if the patient resists transport. The patient may be physically restrained using belts/straps/trape as necessary but EMS personnel should not risk injury to themselves in a physical confrontation with the refusing patient. Restraints may be initiated by the police or may be ordered by MC.
- d. Vital signs should be obtained, if possible.
- e. The risk of refusal of evaluation/stabilization/transport, if known, should be described to the patient. It is understood that EMS personnel lack the benefit of training and diagnostic tools present in an Emergency Department and may be unable to fully assess the illness/injury. Therefore, they may be unable to determine the potential risks to the patient.
- f. MC will be contacted when:
 1. Patient appears to lack capacity to make an informed decision (i.e., patient does not understand the risks involved).
 2. Patient appears to be intoxicated with drugs or alcohol.
 3. Patient appears to be a danger to him/herself, others, or property.
 4. Patient has head injury.
 5. Patient has symptoms or signs which would require ALS care.
 6. Patient is a minor.



	<p>g. The patient or legal representative should sign the refusal of evaluation/stabilization/transport form.</p> <p>h. The following should be documented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A PCR should be filled out to the extent possible:<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Vital signsB. Physical exam including general appearance and mental status.2. If patient refused evaluation or stabilization, document specifically what was refused.3. If patient refused transport, document the reason it was refused.4. If police were notified, document agency and time (see Section C)5. The patient or legal representative should sign a statement specifying what was refused and that refusal might pose a threat to the health and safety of the patient.
Procedure	See attached
General Notes	Distribution to all EMS agencies.
Revised	

Refusal of Evaluation/Stabilization/Transport

PCR # _____

RUN # _____

I, _____ have been offered evaluation, stabilization, and transport by the
Emergency Medical Service. I refuse:

_____ Evaluation and/or stabilization
specify _____

_____ Transportation to the most appropriate health care facility
Reason _____

I understand this refusal may pose a risk to my health and safety.

Other risks: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Relationship to patient _____

Witness _____ Relationship to patient _____

If you refuse transportation, you are strongly urged to seek medical treatment as soon as possible.