

SUBJECT: **TREATMENT/TRANSPORT OF MINORS**

PURPOSE: To describe the guidelines for treatment and/or transport of a patient under the age of eighteen.

AUTHORITY: California Family Code 6922, 6926, 6927, 6929(4)b, 7002(a)(b)(c), 7122

DEFINITIONS:

Minor: A person less than eighteen years of age.

Minor not requiring parental consent is a person who:

Has an emergency medical condition and parent is not available
Is married or previously married
Is on active duty in the military
Is 15 years or older, living separate and apart from his/her parents and managing his/her own financial affairs
Is 12 years or older and in need of care for rape
Is 12 years or older and in need of care for contagious reportable disease or condition, or for substance abuse
Is an emancipated minor (decreed by court, identification card by DMV)
Is pregnant and requires care related to the pregnancy
Is in need of care for sexual assault

Legal Representative: A person who is granted custody or conservatorship of another person by a court of law.

Emergency: Condition or situation in which an individual has a need for immediate medical attention or where the potential for need is perceived by EMS personnel or a public safety agency.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Consent
 - A. **Voluntary Consent:** Treatment or transport of a minor child shall be with the verbal or written consent of the parents or legal representative.
 - B. **Involuntary Consent:** In the absence of a parent or legal representative, emergency treatment and/or transport of a minor may be initiated without consent.

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

PROCEDURES:

I. Treatment/Transport of Minors

- A. In the absence of a parent or legal representative, minors with an emergency condition shall be treated and transported to the health facility most appropriate to the needs of the patient (e.g. EDAP, PTC, PMC, Trauma Center, etc.)
- B. Hospital or provider agency personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent or legal representative where their child has been transported.
- C. If prehospital care personnel believe a parent or other legal representative of a minor is making a decision which appears to be endangering the health and welfare of the minor by refusing indicated immediate care or transport, law enforcement authorities should be involved.

II. Minors **Not** Requiring Transport

- A. A minor child (excluding children \leq twelve (12) months of age) who is evaluated by EMS personnel and determined not to be injured, to have sustained only minor injuries, or to have illnesses or injuries not requiring immediate treatment or transportation, may be released to:
 - 1. Self (consideration should be given to age, maturity, environment and other factors that may be pertinent to the situation)
 - 2. Parent or legal representative
 - 3. A responsible adult at the scene.
 - 4. Designated care giver
 - 5. Law enforcement
- B. Children \leq 36 months of age require base hospital contact and/or transport in accordance with Reference No. 808.
- C. Prehospital care personnel shall document on the EMS Report Form to whom the patient was released.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Prehospital Care Policy ManualRef. No. 808, **Base Contact and Transport Criteria**Ref. No. 822, **Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Guidelines**Ref. No. 834, **Patient Refusal of Treatment or Transport**

California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems Consent Manual