STANDING ORDER: ADULT AMA

1. A capable adult, guardian, or an emancipated minor may refuse specific EMS medical evaluation and care (example – establishment of an IV), all EMS medical care indicated, or transport to an emergency receiving facility.

2. When both EMS personnel and the patient or guardian/Power of Attorney agree that medical evaluation and/or transport is not necessary, refer to SO-REL.

3. If patient or guardian/Power of Attorney decides to sign or leave AMA when EMS medical care or transport is indicated:
   
   A. Communicate the potential risks/ consequences of refusal of care to the patient (guardian/Power of Attorney).
   
   B. Present to the patient (guardian/Power of Attorney) alternatives for obtaining care/transport or modification of services offered.

4. Contact Base Hospital for patients signing AMA that meet Base Hospital Contact criteria (OCEMS Policy # 310.00). If the patient refuses treatment and/or transport and there is some question on the part of field personnel as to the decision making capacity of the patient, Base Hospital consultation should be obtained.

5. When a patient exhibits signs of being a danger to self or others, or is gravely disabled due to an intellectual or mental condition and cannot simply be treated and/or transported, notify law enforcement and remain with the patient until law authorities has made a determination regarding legal detention (5150).

6. It is not appropriate to dissuade or coerce a patient into to signing AMA as a means to release in the field rather than transport for medical evaluation.

STANDING ORDER: UNDER AGE OF CONSENT (LESS THAN 18 YEARS-OLD) AMA:

1. Patients less than 18 years-old who are offered EMS transport from the field may decline that offer when ALL of the following criteria are met:

   A. An appropriately focused primary and secondary exam confirm that no medical emergency exists for the minor and no EMT or paramedic treatment intervention are indicated.

   B. The minor’s parent or legal representative has been contacted or is present at the scene and does not request EMS services and/or declines EMS transport. If the parent or legal representative is not available, a self-sufficient minor may still be released at scene after all appropriate attempts are made and documented to locate the parent or legal guardian.

   C. The parent or legal guardian, if available, has been advised and communicates they understand that they may seek further assessment from a health care provider.

   D. The scene and situation in which the minor is being left is not a threat to their health and personal safety.

DOCUMENTATION:
All AMA cases must be entered into the OC-MEDS AMA window with patient signature (when patient capable and agrees to sign).
TREATMENT GUIDELINES:

"Capable" means an adult patient (or emancipated minor), that has the capacity to understand the circumstances surrounding his/her illness or impairment, and the risks associated with declining treatment or transport; and is alert, oriented and his/her judgment is not impaired.

"Emancipated Minor" includes any of the following
Active duty military
Married or previously married
≥15 years old and living apart from parents and managing own finances
≥ 14 years old and declared an "Emancipated Minor" by a Superior Court

"5150" means a patient who is held against his/her will for evaluation under the authority of Welfare & Institutions Code 5150 because the patient is a danger to him/herself, a danger to others, and/or is gravely disabled, e.g., unable to care for self. This written order may be placed by a law enforcement officer, County mental health worker, or an emergency physician certified by the County Mental Health Department to place an individual on a 5150 hold. (Pediatric equivalent is Welfare & Institutions Code 5585)