



SIGNING AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE (AMA) IN THE FIELD

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).

Approved:

Review Dates: 05/16, 05/17
Final Date of Implementation: 10/01/2017
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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)

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Matthews".

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