

## SCENE RELEASE OF PATIENTS Rev. 5/2021

### ALL PROVIDERS

#### SCENE RELEASE

Patients may be considered for release at scene only if documentation supports release and **all** of the following conditions are met.

1. Legal age (18) or married, or legal guardian of minor present (family members other than parents are not legal guardians, unless so appointed). Exception: minors with no care required may be released to their own care or police custody as appropriate.
2. Appears able to make an informed decision as judged by EMS personnel.
  - a. Minimal guidelines for judging decision-making ability:
    - i. **Not under the influence of drugs or alcohol to the extent that judgment may be affected as assessed by EMS personnel**
    - ii. **Demonstrates the ability to understand their medical problem.**
    - iii. **Demonstrates the ability to understand proposed treatments or alternate treatments, if any.**
    - iv. **Demonstrates the ability to understand the option of refusing treatment and/or transport for their medical problem**
    - v. **Demonstrates the ability to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of refusing treatment and/or transport, as explained and documented by EMS personnel (must be “informed”)**
3. If suicidal, homicidal or otherwise mentally impaired, treat patient according to ***Behavioral Emergencies Protocol***.

#### CONDITIONS OF RELEASE:

1. Refusal of care and/or transport by patient. Patients with informed decision-making capability may refuse care and/or transport after evaluation by EMS personnel. Medical Control will be contacted prior to release, if the patient is going against medical advice (AMA).
2. No care and/or transport required. Individuals with decision making ability with no complaint or obvious injury/illness who do not wish care and/or transport may sign a no care and/or transport required release form. EMS personnel must agree that no care and/or transport are needed. Medical Control may be contacted prior to release.

#### PROVIDING CARE AGAINST PATIENTS WISHES:

When EMS providers and/or Medical Control feel emergency care is indicated, patients may be treated and/or transported **against their wishes when:**

1. The patient is a minor without a legal guardian.
2. The adult patient who does not have decision making ability as judged by EMS Personnel and who has an immediate threat to life or limb
3. May be a danger to self or others, follow ***Behavioral Emergencies Protocol***

#### SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

1. Seizures. Patients with a known seizure disorder who have breakthrough seizures despite compliance with medications, and who are spontaneously fully recovered from a single seizure may be released.

2. Hypoglycemia. Diabetic patients with hypoglycemia due to lack of sufficient sugar intake (but not insulin overdose or new medication prescribed) may be released if fully recovered after glucose administration if:
  - a. They understand why they had the hypoglycemic issue, and
  - b. They have access to oral glucose or a meal within 20 minutes, and.
  - c. It is recommended that there be someone present to watch them for further issues.
  
3. Heroin Overdose. When a patient with altered mental status and/or respiratory depression has responded to a maximum dose of 2 mgs (IM/IV) or 4 mgs (IN) Naloxone administration, and is now awake and alert, admits heroin abuse, and denies suicidal intent. The individual must also receive information regarding where he/she can receive treatment for their addiction. It is recommended that there be someone present to watch them for further issues. He/she may be released at the scene according to release guidelines outlined above. **THIS APPLIES ONLY TO SELF-REPORTED HEROIN USE.**
  
4. Other situations may arise when scene release may be appropriate. The patient's clinical condition, vital signs, mental status, Glasgow Coma Score, understanding of his/her condition and possible consequences, if untreated, **must always be documented.** When in doubt, contact Medical Control.

If the patient becomes unconscious or unresponsive at any point during this process, treat or transport under implied consent.