Policy:

All individuals served by the Pitt County EMS System will be evaluated, treated, and offered transportation (if indicated) in a timely and appropriate manner for each patient situation.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is:

- Assessment of Risk for patient refusing treatment and/or transport.
- Appropriate medical treatment and/or stabilization as is permitted by the patient at the scene.
- Protection of patient, EMS personnel, and citizens from undue risk when possible.
- Physician assertive involvement with patient which may increase percentage of transport for patient's at risk.

Procedure:

1. Patient does not wish to go to the hospital.
2. Assess the mechanism of injury or illness of the patient.
3. Assess for Risk of the patient using the “Patient Refusal of Transport and/or Treatment” form. (Appendix K)
4. Does patient have any of the above Risks? (Appendix K)
5. If “No”, this would be “Low Risk” and Consider contacting Medical Control. Document: good patient assessment hx and patient exam; patient mental status; advise patient to follow-up with their family doctor or call “911” back if they change their mind; and obtain the patient’s signature. Return to service or transport patient.
6. If “Yes”, this would be “High Risk”. Maintain your Safety! *Summon law enforcement if needed. Initiate appropriate evaluation and treatment as the patient will allow. Contact Medical Control. Document: good patient assessment hx and patient exam; patient mental status; advise patient to follow-up with their doctor or call “911” back if they change their mind; and obtain the patient’s signature. Return to service and transport patient.

*Based on NC General Statue 122C – 261, 263, 281, and 283, if an individual is in need of medical treatment and they are intoxicated or mentally ill (includes mental illness from schizophrenic, hypoglycemic and subdural hematoma) then law enforcement has the duty and authority to use appropriate force as needed to bring the individual to a medical facility.