

Standards Policy PATIENT REFUSAL OF TRANSPORT

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:

To provide:

- * 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 family doctor or call "911" back if they change their mind; and obtain the patient's signature. Return to service or transport patient.

***Based on NC General Statute 122C—261, 263, 281 and 283**, if an individual is in need of medical treatment and if 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.