

SCENE RELEASE OF PATIENTS

Revised 11/2010

I. 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. No life or limb threatening condition as judged by EMS personnel.
3. Appears able to make an informed decision as judged by EMS personnel.
 - a. Minimal guidelines for judging decision making ability:
 - **Understands the consequences of not receiving care, as explained by EMS personnel (must be “informed”)**
 - Alert and oriented to person, place, time, situation.
 - Not suicidal, homicidal, or otherwise mentally impaired
 - Not under the influence of drugs or alcohol to the extent that judgment may be affected as assessed by EMS personnel

II. CONDITIONS OF RELEASE:

1. Refusal of care and/or transport by patient. Informed patients with decision making capability may refuse care and/or transport after evaluation by EMS personnel. Medical Control may be contacted prior to release
2. No care and/or transport required. Patients 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 is needed. Medical Control may be contacted prior to release

III. PROVIDING CARE AGAINST PATIENTS WISHES:

When EMS providers and/or Medical Control feel emergency care is indicated, patients may be treated, transported and/or restrained **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
3. May be a danger to self or others

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IV. 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 or medication overdose) may be released if fully recovered after glucose administration if:
 - a. They understand why they had the insulin reaction and
 - b. They have access to oral glucose or a meal within 20 minutes.
3. Heroin Overdose. When a patient with altered mental status and/or respiratory depression has responded to Naloxone administration and is now awake and alert, admits heroin abuse, and denies suicidal intent, he/she may be released at the scene according to release guidelines outlined above. THIS APPLIES ONLY TO HEROIN USE.
4. Other situations may arise when scene release may be appropriate. The patients 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.