NON-TRANSPORTED PATIENT

All patients will be transported to a hospital emergency department unless the patient refuses transport.

BASIC EMT / ADVANCED EMT / PARAMEDIC

The following guidelines are to be observed.

1. If a patient initially refuses necessary care the Paramedic/AEMT/EMT will enlist the aid of friends, family, co-workers, or significant others, as well as address any concerns the patient may have in order to convince him/her to agree to needed treatment and/or transportation.
2. To accept the patient's decision not to receive treatment and/or transportation the patient (or responsible party, if the patient is a minor or declared legally incompetent) **must** meet all the following criteria:
   a. Not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol
   b. Have normal mental status, indicated by:
      - ➢ Normal/appropriate speech
      - ➢ Orientation to person, place, and time
      - ➢ Appropriate, rational thinking
   c. The patient exhibits no signs, symptoms, or historical data suggestive of a potentially life-threatening illness, injury, or other condition (see below).
   d. The patient has access to a phone or "significant others" to help her/him obtain further care if needed.
   e. The patient/responsible party has been instructed to seek follow-up medical care as soon as possible.
   f. The patient/responsible party has read (or has been read) all statements on the Refusal form and appears to have an understanding of them.
3. If any of the criteria listed above are absent
   - ➢ **MEDICAL CONTROL** must be contacted for review and assistance (see #15)
   - ➢ **The results of this consultation must be documented**.

REFUSAL BY ALS OR WITH ONLINE MEDICAL CONTROL

4. In the event any of the following criteria are present
   - ➢ BLS providers may accept release only after contacting Medical Control.

NON-TRANSPORTED PATIENT cont.

5. In each of the following circumstances, the patient must be evaluated by an ALS provider:
   - ➢ If, in the judgment of the BLS provider, the patient has/is suffering from a potentially life or limb-threatening event it is appropriate that the patient be examined by an ALS provider.
   - ➢ Near drowning
   - ➢ Chest pain of any type
   - ➢ Respiratory distress
   - ➢ Cardiac irregularity (too fast, too slow, irregular, or weak pulse)
   - ➢ Serious blunt or any penetrating head, neck, chest or abdominal injury
   - ➢ Symptomatic hypotension (weak rapid pulse, lightheadedness, altered level of consciousness)
   - ➢ Symptomatic hypertension (headache, vertigo, disequilibrium, visual problems, altered level of consciousness)
   - ➢ Diabetic related emergencies
   - ➢ All facial burns, all electrical burns, and/or any 2ND or 3RD degree (partial or full-thickness) burns covering 10% or more of the body
   - ➢ Overdose or accidental poisoning
   - ➢ First time seizures, repetitive seizures, or failure to fully recover from the postictal state
   - ➢ Severe orthopedic injuries (e.g., multiple, proximal, or open fractures)
   - ➢ Head injury with history of loss of consciousness
     a. alteration in level of consciousness from baseline
     b. CSF/blood from ears or nose
   - ➢ Signs or symptoms suggestive of a spinal injury
     a. lateralizing numbness, tingling, weakness
   - ➢ History of loss of consciousness from any cause (syncope)
6. In all the other circumstances, it is appropriate for the BLS provider to accept a release and disregard the ALS unit.

PROCEDURE

7. The patient (or the patient's guardian if applicable) will be advised that transport is indicated for further evaluation and care by the emergency department physician.
8. The patient (or guardian) will be informed that he/she **has not been** evaluated by a physician.
9. The patient (or guardian) will be informed that significant medical problems may exist
   - ➢ that these potential problems **cannot** be fully described at this time
   - ➢ may possibly lead to significant disability or even death.

NON-TRANSPORTED PATIENT cont.

10. The patient (or guardian) will be asked if they understand the risks in refusing further medical care.
11. The patient (or guardian) will be instructed that he/she may call 911 at any time should they change their mind and wish to be seen by a physician.
12. The Paramedic/AEMT/EMT will complete the Refusal form and read it to the patient.
13. All areas of the Refusal form must be completed and appropriate signatures obtained.
14. If any **"NO"** box on the Refusal form is checked
    - **MEDICAL CONTROL** must be contacted prior to completion of any signature of release.
15. If Medical Control is required
    - communication will be established with the emergency department physician at the intended receiving facility or the supervising hospital
    - the physician will be apprised of the situation and asked for recommendations
    - the physician may ask to speak directly to the patient
    - the name of the physician, the hospital and recommendations will be recorded.
16. The patient will be encouraged to sign the Refusal form.
17. A run sheet with vital signs and pertinent medical information will be completed.
18. If a patient is less than 18 years old
    - only the parent
    - legal guardian
    - or adult sibling (in that order) may refuse care
        - exception is compelling evidence of emancipation.

Emancipation is defined under Indiana Code 16-36-1-3(a)(2)(B)-(E) as:

(B) is:

(i) at least fourteen (14) years of age;

(ii) not dependent on a parent for support;

(iii) living apart from the minor's parents or from an individual in loco parentis; and

(iv) managing the minor's own affairs;

(C) is or has been married;

(D) is in the military service of the United States; or

(E) is authorized to consent to the health care by any other statute

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH CARD

A person who was involved in a motor vehicle crash and meets all of the criteria listed below will be eligible for a Motor Vehicle Crash Card.

- Person was involved in a motor vehicle crash.
- Does not have any complaints.
- No visible signs of significant injury.
- No behavior problems that places the person or others at risk.
- Person is NOT less than 18 years of age.
- No signs of intoxication

If patient does not meet <u>ALL</u> the above listed criteria a complete Refusal Of Transportation form must be completed.