

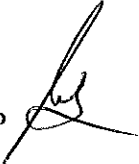


McLean County Area EMS System

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TO: -MCAEMS System Members

FROM: Gregory Scott, R.N., M.S., EMT-P
EMS System Coordinator 

DATE: March 5, 2009

SUBJECT: Patient Right of Refusal policy

This memo is to provide clarification on the process of handling patient refusals. When EMS providers are calling into Medical Control about a patient desiring to refuse, there must be several items that must be completed:

- Establish legal, mental, and medical/situational competence through an assessment of the patient
- Determine if the patient refusal is a high or low risk
- All risks of refusing medical care and transport as well as all benefits of being transported to the Emergency Department must be explained to the patient or legal guardian prior to a refusal being documented
- When contacting Medical Control, the patient must be close to the radio or phone in order for the ECRN to read the standardized statement
- If the patient, EMS provider, or ECRN have any questions the Emergency Department physician will be consulted
- The Emergency Department physician should not be asked if it is ok to accept the refusal

Please remember that all patients do have the right to refuse but these are not being approved by the EMS provider, ECRN, EMS System, EMS Medical Director, or Emergency Physician. The patient is the only person that is solely responsible for making an informed decision to refuse and calling into Medical Control is solely for documentation purposes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the EMS Department at (309) 827-4348.

cc: Jeannie Mekley, EMS QA Coordinator
Dr. Joel Nilles, Alternate EMS Medical Director
Dr. Doug Ward, EMS Medical Director
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