

System Protocol

Transport of an Apparently Intoxicated Patient Policy

Date: July 1, 2013

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Transportation of and Apparently Intoxicated Patient Policy

Purpose: To outline the process to be followed when EMS personnel are faced with persons who appear to be suffering from acute intoxication or potentially impaired from mental illness without any other associated medical condition.¹

I. Role of EMS personnel:

- A. Upon identifying a person who appears intoxicated, or potentially impaired from mental illness:
 1. Perform a primary and secondary exam including vital signs
 2. If there are apparent injuries or any other condition which causes concern for the patient's health or welfare, the patient must be transported to a hospital by EMS
 - a. Potential conditions which suggest necessity for hospital transport:
 - 1) Any condition identified during the primary or secondary exam which would typically result in transport to hospital
 - 2) Auditory hallucinations ("hearing voices"), talking to someone not present
 - 3) Delusional thinking (paranoia)
 - 4) Self-harm/abusive or aggressive behavior
 3. If there are no apparent injuries or other conditions which cause concern for the patient's health or welfare, perform an evaluation of oxygen saturation and glucose level
 4. If assessments are within normal limits, and there is no indication of need for hospital evaluation, a determination may be made that no emergency exists and the patient may be transported to the Mel Trotter facility. Contact on-line Medical Control for authorization.
 5. If oxygen saturation or glucose is abnormal or there is any other suggestion of need for hospital evaluation, the patient must be transported to an appropriate hospital.
 6. If there is any confusion or question about the person's condition, contact on-line medical control for direction.
 7. Transport mode
 - a. If going to the Mel Trotter facility, the patient may be transported by law enforcement
 - b. If going to hospital, the patient will be transported by EMS
 - c. If no other transportation is available, the patient may be transported to the Mel Trotter facility via EMS.

¹ R 325.22112 Patient destination; transporting agencies

Rule 112 (1) An ambulance operation, both ground and rotary, shall transport an emergency patient only to an organized emergency department located in and operated by a hospital licensed under part 215 of the code or to a freestanding surgical outpatient facility licensed under part 208 of the code that operates a service for treating emergency patients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and complies with medical control authority protocols.(2) Subrule (1) of this rule shall not apply when a determination is made that an emergency no longer exists in accordance with department-approved protocols

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