



Section 1: Administrative / Medical Control

GUIDELINE/PROCEDURES: ALTERNATE TRANSPORT

Under the auspices of each individual EMS jurisdiction and the Medical Director, this protocol provides an alternative transportation option for use by EMS personnel for patients who do not require emergent ambulance transportation.

PURPOSE

- To provide a suggested alternative transportation option to non - emergent patients who do not require emergent ambulance transportation.

PROCEDURE

Before advocating other means of transportation, EMS personnel must perform ALL of the following:

1. Appropriate medical exam, including vital signs.
2. Obtain pertinent patient information.
3. Contact Medical Control.

ALTERNATE TRANSPORT GUIDELINES

Patient complaints for which EMS personnel **may recommend other means of transportation to medical care** are limited to the following:

- Ear pain with no apparent object in ear
- Minor extremity lacerations with no gross loss of function
- Pain or burning on urination
- Penile discharge
- Minor vaginal discharge unless the patient is obviously pregnant or suspects she is pregnant
- Toothache without swelling or radiating jaw pain. Pt must be transported if evident of impending airway compromise
- Minor sore throats and colds
- Prescription refills
- Scheduled clinic appointments
- Catheter replacements
- Gastric (feeding) tubes that have become displaced

EMS personnel **MAY NOT** decline transport, or in any way suggest alternative means of transportation for any of the following patients, complaints, or situations:

1. Less than 18 years of age
2. Suicide Attempt
3. Intoxication
4. Abuse or negligence of adult or child
5. Any situation where the crew's best judgment indicates transport

Whenever presented with a medical complaint other than those listed in the Alternative Transport Guidelines section, follow the appropriate treatment protocol for patient care as authorized in these protocols or contact Medical Control.

**DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THIS
ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT POLICY**