



TREATMENT & TRANSPORT OF MINORS

PURPOSE

To describe the guidelines for treatment and/or transport of a patient under the age of eighteen (18).

AUTHORITY

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
California Welfare and Institution Code, Division 2, Chapter 2, Article 7, § 305
California Welfare and Institution Code, Division 2, Chapter 2, Article 15, § 625

DEFINITIONS

Minor: A person less than (<) eighteen (18) years of age.

Minor not requiring parental consent: A person < eighteen (18) years of age who meets one (1) or more of the following:

- I. Has an emergency medical condition and parent or legal guardian is not available.
- II. Is married or previously married.
- III. Is on active military duty.
- IV. Is fifteen (15) years of age or older, living separate and apart from his or her parents and managing his or her own financial affairs.
- V. Is twelve (12) years of age or older and in need of medical care for a contagious reportable disease/condition or for substance abuse.
- VI. Is an emancipated minor (decreed by a court, may be verified by Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV] identification [ID] card).
- VII. Is pregnant and requires medical care related to the pregnancy.
- VIII. Is in need of medical care for sexual assault.

Legal Guardian: A person who is granted custody or conservatorship of another person by a court of law.

Emergency: A condition or situation in which an individual has a need for immediate medical attention or where the potential for need is perceived by Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel or a public safety agency.

PRINCIPLES CONSENT

- I. **Actual Consent:** Treatment or transport of a minor child shall be with the verbal or written consent of a parent or legal guardian.
- II. **Implied Consent:** In the absence of a parent or legal guardian, emergency treatment and/or transport of a minor may be initiated without consent.



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Policy

Revised Date: September 1, 2018

PROCEDURE

- I. In the absence of a parent or legal guardian, minors with an emergency condition shall be treated and transported to the health facility most appropriate to the needs of the patient (e.g., Trauma Center, etc.).
- II. Hospital or Service Provider Agency personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent or legal guardian of where their child has been transported.
- III. If prehospital care personnel believe a parent or legal guardian of a minor is making a decision which appears to be endangering the health and welfare of the minor by refusing indicated immediate care or transport, law enforcement authorities should be involved.