TREATMENT & TRANSPORT OF MINORS

PURPOSE

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

AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

California Welfare and Institution Code, Sections 305 and 625

POLICY

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

B. **Minor not requiring parental consent:** A person less than eighteen (18) years of age who meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has an emergency medical condition and parent or legal guardian is not available
2. Is married or previously been married
3. Is on active duty in the military
4. 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
5. Is twelve (12) years of age or older and in need of medical care for a contagious reportable disease/condition or for substance abuse
6. Is an emancipated minor (decreed by a court, may be verified by DMV identification card)
7. Is pregnant and requires medical care related to the pregnancy
8. Is in need of medical care for sexual assault

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

D. **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 EMS personnel or a public safety agency.

PRINCIPLES CONSENT

A. **Actual Consent:** Treatment or transport of a minor child shall be with the verbal or written consent of a parent or legal guardian.

B. **Implied Consent:** In the absence of a parent or legal guardian, emergency treatment and/or transport of a minor may be initiated without consent.

PROCEDURE

A. 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.).

B. Hospital or provider agency personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent or legal guardian of where their child has been transported.

C. 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.

CROSS REFERENCES

Patient initiated Release at Scene (RAS) or Refusal of Service Against Medical Advice (AMA),