General Principles

EMS provides field stabilization and transport. Under some circumstances EMS transport may be an unnecessary use of resources. This protocol will allow medics to offer some patients under some circumstances alternative means of transport to a medical facility.

Indications:

1. Minor complaint.
2. Vital signs within normal limits. Vitals signs include pulse, respiration, blood pressure, BGL, pulse oximetry, and temperature.
3. Patient is ambulatory without difficulty.
4. Patient is not insistent on being transported by ambulance.

Precautions:

1. Musculoskeletal and skin complaints are less risky than medical complaints.
2. Transport decisions should be based on best practice for patient care, not on cost. All patients will be treated with equal care, regardless of their ability to pay.
3. If you have any doubts about the wisdom of not transporting the patient by ambulance, initiate transport.
4. If the patient has abnormal vital signs but does not appear to be in distress, alternate transport can only be used with the consent of medical control.

Technique:

1. Document the call as usual. Include in the narrative the justification for alternate transportation.
2. Document patient's willingness to accept alternate transportation, and the information you gave to patient to aid in their decision.
3. If medical control was consulted, document who was consulted, and what their final determination was.

Notes:

1. If the patient insists on ambulance transport, they must be transported.
2. If medical control is consulted and will not consent to alternate transport, the patient must be transport by ambulance.

EMS Initiated Alternate Transport

3. In the event of social or legal factors (i.e. drugs, abuse) the patient must be transported.
4. Potentially suicidal patients or patients threatening to harm themselves must be transported.
5. Any patient without alternate means of transport must be transported by ambulance if transport is indicated.

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