

RELEASE AT SCENE (RAS)

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION

- EMS personnel and the patient or Designated Decision Maker (DDM) concur that the illness/injury does not require immediate treatment/transport via emergency / 911 services

PHYSICIAN CONSULT

- If there are any questions or concerns regarding the patient's disposition

CRITICAL INFORMATION

- Patients who may legally request RAS are as follows:
 - At least 18 years of age
 - A minor <18 years who is lawfully married/divorced, or on active duty with the armed forces
 - A minor ≥12 years of age seeking treatment of rape, contagious diseases, alcohol or drug abuse
 - A self sufficient minor, ≥ 15 years of age, caring for themselves
 - A legally emancipated minor
- DDM is an individual that the patient or a court has legally given authority to make medical decisions on behalf of the patient.
- Patients who do not have a DDM physically present may be released at the scene after telephone consent is obtained (this would most often occur with a minor when the parent is not at the scene).

TREATMENT/ PROCEDURE

- All patients requesting medical attention will be offered treatment and/ or transportation after a complete assessment.
- Mentally competent patients/ DDM have the right to accept or refuse any or all pre-hospital care & transportation as long as medical personnel have explained the care & the patient /DDM understands by restating the nature and consequences of such decisions.
- EMS personnel should advise the patient of alternative care & transport options which may include:
 - Private transport to a clinic, a physician office or an Emergency Department
 - Telephone consultation with a physician
- Have patient/ DDM sign the RAS form

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- Consider involvement of law enforcement early if there is any threat to self or others.

DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Who activated 911 and the reason for the call
- The apparent competency of the patient/ DDM to sign the RAS form
- The ability of the patient/ DDM to verbalize the understanding of his/her illness or injury, risks and the outcome for not treating/ transporting
- Alternate plan for patient follow up
- The presence or absence of impairment due to drugs/ alcohol
- The patient/ DDM understanding that they may re-access 911 if needed
- Signature or reason stated why it was not obtained on the RAS form

RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- Against Medical Advice GPC 2