


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

EMS Care Of Minor Patients

	Effective: 06/01/2017	Next Review: 03/2020	851
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
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PURPOSE:

To establish criteria, guidelines and requirements for EMS assessment, treatment and/or transport (collectively referred to in this policy as “EMS care”) of minor patients.

AUTHORITY:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.
- C. California Business and Professions Code § 2397.
- D. California Family Code, § 6922, 6924, 6925, 6926, 6927, 6928, and 6929.
- E. California Welfare and Institution Code, § 305 and 625.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. Minor – An individual under the age of 18 years.
- B. Emancipated – An individual under the age of 18 years old who is married, on active duty in the military, or emancipated by court declaration.
- C. Parent – The lawful mother or father of a non-emancipated minor.
- D. Legal Guardian – An individual who has been granted legal authority to care for another person. Legal guardianship is commonly used for incapacitated seniors, developmentally delayed adults and minors.
- E. Emergency – A situation requiring immediate services for alleviation of severe pain or immediate diagnosis of unforeseen medical conditions, which, if not immediately diagnosed and treated, would lead to serious disability or death.

POLICY:

- A. Parent/legal guardian consent for EMS care is not required for minor patients meeting any of the following criteria:
1. Has an emergency medical condition and a parent/legal guardian is not available.
 2. Is an emancipated minor.
 3. Is fifteen (15) years of age or older, living separate and apart from their parents and managing their own financial affairs.
 4. Is twelve (12) years of age or older and in need of medical care for an infectious, contagious communicable disease, or for a sexually transmitted disease.
 5. Is twelve (12) years of age or older and in need of medical care for drug or alcohol abuse.
 6. Is in need of medical care for rape or sexual assault.
 7. Is pregnant and requires medical care related to the pregnancy.
- B. EMS personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent/legal guardian of a non-emancipated minor of the situation requiring EMS care and where their child has been transported.
1. **EMS personnel are not permitted to inform a parent/legal guardian without the minor's consent under the following circumstances:**
 - **Is pregnant and requires medical care related to the pregnancy.**
 - **Is twelve (12) years of age or older and in need of medical care for an infectious, contagious communicable disease, or for a sexually transmitted disease.**
 2. **EMS personnel are not permitted to inform a parent or legal guardian of a minor who is in need of medical care for rape or sexual assault when they reasonably believe that the parent/guardian committed the rape or assault.**
- C. If EMS personnel believe a parent or legal guardian is making a decision which appears to be endangering the health and welfare of a minor patient, law enforcement involvement shall be utilized.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Refusal of EMS Care (850).