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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHERN FOX VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM POLICY & PROCEDURES</p> | | | | |
| <p>TITLE: ABANDONMENT/CONTINUITY OF CARE</p> | | | | | |
| <p>SECTION: GENERAL POLICIES</p> | | | <p>POLICY NUMBER: D-11.0</p> | | |
| <p>APPROVED BY: DR. ARTHUR PROUST EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR</p> | | | | | |
| <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/01/2023</p> | | | | <p>PAGE NUMBER: 1 OF 2</p> | |

PURPOSE:

To ensure that EMS personnel remain with the patient until the patient is under the supervision of other personnel of equal or greater competence, or the patient refuses treatment and transport through a valid non-consent response.

POLICY:

1. Any time EMS personnel respond to, or are presented with any person who has a complaint of possible illness, injury or the potential of such, they are to consider that person a "patient." Once contact or care is initiated it must be in accordance with Southern Fox Valley Emergency Medical Services System (SFVEMSS) policies, Illinois Region 9 EMS Policies and Standing Operating Policies (SOPs), and the Illinois EMS Act.
2. A reasonable search of a scene must be completed to determine if a patient exists. All patients shall have assessments and necessary treatment performed in compliance with the SFVEMSS SOPs, as allowed by the patient and/or based on their clinical presentations.
3. When a patient refuses treatment and transport, it must be established that the patient has a decisional capacity to refuse treatment.
4. EMS personnel shall not transfer an advanced life support patient, requiring that level of care, to an EMS unit not capable of providing that level of care, unless approved by medical control to downgrade care.
 - a. If transferring to a helicopter, medical control shall have final approval before patient is transported from the scene
5. If the initial EMS personnel are not the transporting provider then, in a non- MCI situation:
 - a. A Patient Care Report (PCR) shall be completed if transferring patient care to another agency.

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| Revision Date(S): | 05/27/2009 | 08/19/2023 | | | |

- b. The PCR shall include all information required by IDPH, SFVEMSS and NEMSIS, including the name of the unit patient care was transfer to
- 6. A patient is never to be left in a receiving facility until the staff has been provided with all the required information and staff has assumed care of that patient.
- 7. Abandonment claims can occur at any level of care, and even a temporary failure to supervise or stay with the patient may create liability.
- 8. At all MCIs the first EMS crew at the scene shall begin triage & establish communications with the appropriate hospital. That EMS crew should never leave the scene until all patients have been transported to the hospital.

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