

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PROTOCOL

TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT OF MINOR PATIENT POLICY

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Purpose: To define the process to be followed when EMS personnel are interacting with patients who are minors.

Policy: To be utilized if the patient requiring medical treatment and/or transport is a minor. The age of majority in the State of Michigan is 18 years old. As matters of law, those patients less than the age of majority are legally unable to consent to, or refuse consent for, emergent or life threatening medical-care. The minor's parent or legal guardian can only provide such permission, unless the patient is an emancipated minor*.

1. If immediate emergency treatment is required, and the parent or guardian cannot be immediately contacted, the needed treatment and transportation of the minor patient will be provided.
2. If urgent or non-emergency treatment is required, consent should be obtained from the patient's parent or guardian, if possible. If parents or guardians are not immediately available and cannot be contacted, treatment and transport should be provided, under the assumption that this is in the best interest of the patient.
3. If, in the medical judgment of EMS personnel, the minor patient needs medical treatment and transport, and consent is refused by the parent or guardian, EMS personnel should immediately contact medical direction**.
4. If the parent or guardian is not available and the minor patient refuses treatment or transport, EMS personnel should immediately contact medical direction**.
5. If the minor patient has not sustained emergent or life-threatening injury, the parent or guardian is not available and a competent adult is willing to assume responsibility for the minor patient, EMS personnel should immediately contact medical direction**.
6. In any other situation in which treatment or transport of a minor patient is in question, contact medical direction immediately**.

* An emancipated minor is one who is married, is a parent, lives apart from parents and is self-supporting, or has been granted emancipation by the court.

** **At onset** of communication to medical direction, inform hospital that this is a minor patient refusal situation.

3/25/98