


Section: Patient Transport
Subject: TRANSPORTATION OF MINORS AND UNATTENDED MINORS
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1. Due to the fact that pediatric patients can deteriorate rapidly, and the need to maintain pediatric assessment skills, all patients ≤ 5 years of age shall be transported ALS by HCFR personnel.
 - a. Because younger children are capable of looking reasonably stable one minute, and then having their medical condition worsen precipitously, **extreme care** must be exercised when transporting patients less than six (6) years of age.
 - b. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the transfer of pediatric patients to an air ambulance for transport.
2. It is HCFR policy that in the absence of a parent or legal guardian, a minor needing transport, will be transported to the closest appropriate hospital.
 - a. Every attempt to contact the parent or guardians should be made prior to transport in non-urgent situations.
 - i. An exception to this would be an emancipated minor who shall be treated as an adult with respect to destination choice assuming that the patient otherwise has the ability to provide informed consent.
 - b. The Hillsborough County School District has parents complete an Emergency Information Card giving instructions and authorization for their child's care in case the parent or guardian cannot be reached. Therefore, if you are called to either a school or a school bus where there is a school district employee requesting assistance for a minor patient, you are authorized to transport the child.
 - c. Children with life-threatening problems requiring immediate medical care will be transported without delay.
3. When personnel are operating at an incident and the parent or guardian of an otherwise unattended child is transported, law enforcement will immediately be requested.
 - a. A company will remain on the scene and the company officer will assume custody of the child until such time as law enforcement personnel assume this responsibility.
 - i. The company officer will assign a minimum of two personnel to be with the child at all times.
 - ii. When law enforcement personnel assume custody of the child, record the child's name, and the name of the deputy or police officer, along with their badge number, on the incident report, and in the station log book.
 - b. It is not acceptable to leave unattended minors with a non-relative unless prior approval was obtained from the parents or guardians.