



**EVALUATION WITHOUT TREATMENT OR EMS TRANSPORT
(RELEASE IN FIELD)**

PATIENT QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

This standing order applies when either a 9-1-1 response has occurred for which a BLS unit was dispatched or a non-911 BLS ambulance was requested for a patient who has no emergency medical or psychiatric condition, and no injury or illness that requires EMT or paramedic treatment/intervention, and for whom transport is not medically indicated or requested.

I. STANDING ORDER: ADULT RELEASE IN THE FIELD

1. A capable adult or capable emancipated minor who meets patient qualification criteria above and declines transport from the field may do so without being asked to sign AMA (see SO-AMA) when ALL of the following conditions are met:
 - A. An appropriately focused primary and secondary exam along with vital signs confirm that no medical or psychiatric emergency exists for the patient and no EMT or paramedic treatment/intervention is indicated.
 - B. The patient clearly communicates that they do not request EMS services and declines EMS transport.
 - C. The patient has been advised and communicates they understand that they may seek further assessment from a health care provider.
 - D. The scene and situation in which the patient is being left is not a threat to their health and personal safety.

II. STANDING ORDER: UNDER AGE OF CONSENT (LESS THAN 18 YEARS-OLD) RELEASE IN THE FIELD:

1. Capable patients less than 18 years-old who meet patient qualification criteria above and decline transport from the field may do so without being asked to sign AMA (see SO-AMA) when ALL of the following conditions are met:
 - A. An appropriately focused primary and secondary exam along with vital signs confirm that no medical or psychiatric emergency exists for the minor and no EMT or paramedic treatment/intervention is indicated.
 - B. The minor's parent or legal guardian has been contacted or is present at the scene and does not request EMS services and declines EMS transport. If the parent or legal guardian is not available, a self-sufficient minor (see Guidelines below) may still be released at scene after all appropriate attempts are made and documented to locate the parent or legal guardian.

Approved:

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ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PREHOSPITAL STANDING ORDERS

#:SO-B-REL
Page:2 of 2

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- C. The parent or legal guardian, if available, has been advised and communicates they understand that they may seek further assessment from a health care provider.
- D. If the parent or legal guardian is unavailable or cannot be contacted, a minor who is not self-sufficient may be released to a responsible adult/caregiver (babysitter, teacher, older sibling, adult neighbor, etc) at the scene. If none is present, a minor who is not self-sufficient needs transport.
- E. The scene and situation in which the minor is being left is not a threat to their health and personal safety.

DOCUMENTATION:

PCR documentation is required for any patient or minor released in the field. Confirmation and description of how each criterion required for release is met must be documented in the narrative and the patient disposition coded as "No Treatment Required".

GUIDELINE EXPLANATIONS:

Self-sufficient minor is one who is capable of understanding the risks for declining transport, who is able to contact their parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult/caregiver, and who is able to care for themselves given the circumstances at the scene.

EMT or paramedic treatment/intervention means any procedure or treatment included in the OCEMS EMT or Paramedic scope of practice; does not include basic first aid, vital signs, or paramedic exam (assessment).

Appropriate attempts to locate the parent or legal guardian include attempts to contact by telephone or mobile device with voice message left if not answered.

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