



EVALUATION, TREATMENT, AND/OR TRANSPORT OF MINORS

I. AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220 and 1798.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the guidelines for evaluation, treatment, and/or transport of a minor (unemancipated child under the age of 18).

III. GUIDELINES:

A. General Policy

It is the policy of the EMS system that minors shall receive rapid evaluation, treatment, and/or transport under implied consent.

B. Consent

1. **Voluntary Consent:** Evaluation, treatment, and/or transport of a minor shall be with verbal or written consent of the parent or legal guardian, when available.
 - a. If a parent or legal guardian is absent, responders should attempt to contact them and obtain consent. This process should not delay or interfere with patient management.
2. **Implied Consent:** Evaluation, treatment and/or transport of a minor shall not be delayed in the absence of a parent or legal guardian's consent. These actions (evaluation/treatment/transport) are justified under the principle of implied consent. They may also be authorized by an officer of the law who has placed a minor in custody.

C. Transport to an Emergency Receiving Center (ERC)

1. A minor who needs emergency evaluation, possibly treatment, and transport when parents or a legal guardian cannot be contacted, shall be transported to the nearest or most appropriate ERC or appropriate specialty care hospital under base hospital direction.
2. After a paramedic primary and secondary exam along with vital signs is performed, a minor who is determined not to have an injury or illness (no medical or psychiatric emergency exists, no EMT or paramedic treatment/intervention is indicated, transport not medically necessary), or has sustained only minor injuries requiring no intervention, may be released to:
 - a. Self, if 16 years-old or older
 - b. Parents or legal guardian
 - c. A responsible adult or caretaker at the scene (see SO-REL)
 - d. For other situations (age less than 16, no parents/guardian/caretaker on scene or able to be contacted), see SO-REL.



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Approved:

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