



# AACoFD Training Academy



EMS Training Division



## Medical Bytes

Patient refusals are one of the highest risk encounters in clinical EMS. Careful assessment, patient counseling, and appropriate hospital physician consultation can decrease non-transport of high-risk refusals.



Patient Assessment

### Patient Refusals That Require Physician Consult

#### Visual Assessment

- ✓ LOC
- ✓ Orientation
- ✓ Resp. Distress
- ✓ Diaphoresis
- ✓ Gait
- ✓ Skin Color

#### Primary Survey

- ✓ Airway
- ✓ Breathing
- ✓ Circulation
- ✓ Disability



#### Vital Signs

- ✓ Blood Pressure
- ✓ Heart Rate / Respiratory Rate
- ✓ Pulse Ox

#### Secondary Survey

##### Medical

- ✓ Lungs
- ✓ Neurological
- ✓ Glucose

##### Trauma

- ✓ Trauma Decision Tree
- ✓ C-Spine Assessment
- ✓ Back Assessment
- ✓ Injury Assessment

- ❖ Any patient with a mechanism located in the trauma decision tree
- ❖ You are unsure if the patient is medically capable of refusing transport
- ❖ You disagree with the patient's decision to refuse transport due to:
  - Unstable vital signs
  - Clinical factor uncovered by the assessment
  - Provider's judgment that the patient may have a poor outcome

- ❖ Any patient with:
  - Serious complaint (Chest Pain, Syncope, SOB)
  - Head injury with history of LOC
  - Significant MOI or high suspicion of injury
  - Providers impression is that the patient requires hospital evaluation

- ❖ Pediatric / Minor Patients:
  - No parent/guardian or authorized decision maker is available, or the provider disagrees with the decision made by the parent/guardian or authorized decision maker.
  - ALTE patients
  - Patients with significant past medical history
  - Suspected intentional injury

### Documentation PEARLS:

- ❖ Have the patient and witness sign the refusal
- ❖ Document assessment and care provided
- ❖ If the patient refuses to sign, request your EMS supervisor to respond
- ❖ If the patient refuses to sign AMA, advise fire alarm over the TAC channel that the patient refused to sign the refusal AMA