



CENTRAL DUPAGE HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM
POLICY & PROCEDURES

TITLE: BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES

SECTION: FIELD OPERATIONS

POLICY NUMBER: B-2

APPROVED BY: DR. STEVE GRAHAM EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01 JULY 2018

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PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for the interaction and care of patients suffering from a likely behavioral emergency, or those with impaired judgement that cannot be tied with another medical condition.

POLICY:

The rights of all patients should be protected to the best of the crew's ability, while ensuring both EMS provider and patient safety.

Patients who are impaired with altered judgment, those who are unable to understand their decisions due to mental illness (perceived or diagnosed), those who have made suicidal and or homicidal statements, and those with a completed, legally binding petition shall need to be evaluated at an Emergency Department to ensure self-preservation. Additionally, any minor 12 years of age or older may request to receive counselling services / mental health evaluation. The consent of minors parent, guardian or person in loco parentis is not required for the minor to receive treatment and evaluation (ILCS 5/3-550). In situations that are unclear, or the patient is refusing evaluation and transport, Medical Control must be contacted for guidance on patient care / transport. In addition to online Medical Control direction, EMS providers shall utilize their Region 8 SMOs for treatment, unless in doing so would cause harm to the crew and or the patient.

For any patient who is being brought in against their will with medical order, or those with behavioral emergencies coming to the ED willingly, EMS should request Law Enforcement to search the patient, in the presence of EMS prior to transport. Law Enforcement may refuse searching the patient based on probable cause, however, a request may still be made.

1. Law Enforcement assistance in EMS Care / Operations
 - a. In cases that there is a potential for physical altercations or combativeness, law enforcement shall be requested to assist in the safe handling of the patients.
 - b. If law enforcement refuses to assist in safe access / handling of a patient EMS shall contact Medical Control. Medical Control shall be made aware of the situation and safety concerns.
 - c. If Medical Control is contacted and requests that the patient be transported, and the transport of the patient would add danger to the crew's safety, the crew shall not commence transport.

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