SUBJECT: **PATIENT REFUSAL OF TREATMENT/TRANSPORT AND TREAT AND RELEASE AT SCENE QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE** REFERENCE NO. 834.1

If EMS has assessed a patient who DOES NOT want transport to the hospital, this guide may be used to assist in determining the need for AMA; Assess, Treat and Release; or Treatment in Place*

STEP 1 - Does the patient have Decision-Making Capacity?

The patient understands and can verbalize the risks/consequences of not receiving treatment / transport ideally in their own words – as EMS has described and EMS believes the patient has decision-making capacity

- Yes → Is there an Authorized Health Care Provider (HCP) on scene?
  - No → **STEP 2 - Does the patient have an emergency medical condition?**
    - *Abnormal vital signs (except isolated asymptomatic HTN)*
    - *Meets Base Contact Requirements (Ref. 1200.2)*
    - *In the PM/EMT judgment, patient has an immediate need for medical attention*
    - No → **STEP 3 - Does the patient have a High-Risk Chief Complaint / Features OR Social Risk Factors?**
      - ***High-Risk Chief Complaints:*** *Chest Pain, Abdominal Pain, GI Bleeding, Pregnancy, Syncope Neurologic symptoms (including dizziness/vertigo, weakness, visual changes), and ALOC*
      - ***High-Risk Features:***
        - *Age <12 months or >70 years old*
        - *Patient with complicating co-morbidities: active cardiac, respiratory, liver or kidney disease, cancer, neurologic disease, or immunocompromised*
      - ***Social Risk Factors:*** *Homelessness, Congregate Living, Skilled Nursing Facility, Long Term Care Facility*
      - No → Assess, Treat & Release
      - Yes → Against Medical Advice (AMA)
    - Yes → Against Medical Advice (AMA)
  - Yes → Meets "Treatment in Place"
    - *Patient may be treated in place or medically cleared by authorized HCP*
    - *AMA required if patient meets Base Contact Requirements*
    - → Against Medical Advice (AMA)
- No → Can EMS safely transport the patient?
  - Yes → Treat / Transport
  - No → Has EMS engaged all appropriate resources (e.g., Law Enforcement, Base Contact)?
    - Yes → Can EMS safely transport the patient?
    - No → Release Following Protocol Guidelines *(if all appropriate resources engaged)*
- Uncertain – unable to access/engage patient to complete assessment → Has EMS engaged all appropriate resources (e.g., Law Enforcement, Base Contact)?

Against Medical Advice (AMA) → Does the patient meet Base Contact Requirement or is EMS concerned?

- No → Base Contact not required
- Yes → Base Contact required for AMA → *Make every attempt to contact Base before patient leaves the scene. Base may want to speak with the patient*

**For patients with comfort-focused goals of care, proceed with Treat and Release when patient goals can be met without transport.*