

Protocol No. 44
BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS
Revised 2003

Medical

Any life or limb threatening condition.

Any medical condition or injury requiring urgent care. Examples:

Overdose.

Self inflicted wounds.

Unstable or grossly abnormal vital signs.

Psychiatric

No medical problem requiring urgent care.

Suicidal, homicidal or so mentally impaired by a psychiatric condition as to render them incompetent (may be treated and transported against their wishes).

Competent patients with other psychiatric complaints (hearing voices, paranoia, depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, detoxification needs, worsening chronic psychiatric problems, etc.).

Criminal

No apparent medical or psychiatric problem.

Have broken the law according to local police department.

Other

Behavioral problems not meeting any of the above descriptions (marital or other interpersonal disputes, antisocial behavior, chronic dementia, etc).

EMS DISPOSITIONS:

Medical

Follow Protocol 1 and the treatment Protocols (#40)*

Priority 1: Go to the closest facility.

Priority 2 and 3:

Patient preference (or legal guardian preference).

Patient doctor or prior treatment at a facility for the same problem.

Closest facility if no preference.

Psychiatric

Follow Protocol #1* (as above for priority 2 and 3 patients)

Criminal

Release to local police if no medical or psychiatric care is required or if care is refused by a competent patient. Use the appropriate release form.

Other

Transport as appropriate per Protocol #1

May be released at the scene or to detox. Use your judgment and the assistance of Medical Control to make the appropriate decision. (Use appropriate release form).

If a mental health worker or peace officer at the scene designates a destination, which is at odds with Protocol #1, please educate them as to the Protocols and use your judgment and the assistance of Medical Control to make the appropriate decision.

In cases where a peace officer has arrested, not simply detained or restrained, a patient with a behavioral problem, or if that patient is already incarcerated, the peace officer has the rights of a legal guardian and can choose the receiving facility for priority 2 or 3 patients.