

Methodist Health Services Corporation UnityPoint Health- Proctor	Page # 1 of 2	Section:	Policy #: 9
	Approved by:		Date: 6/2017 Review by: 6/2018
	Supersedes: Date Revised: 6/2017		
	Primary Responsible Parties: Dr. Ashley N. Huff Secondary Responsible Parties:		
	Joint Commission Standard:		
SUBJECT: EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PATIENT			

- I. POLICY:
Emotionally Disturbed Patient
- II. PURPOSE AND STANDARD:
EMS providers should consider the mental health needs of a patient who appears emotionally or mentally incapacitated.
- III. POLICY SCOPE: Departmental
- IV. GENERAL INFORMATION:
 - A. This involves cases that the EMS provider has reasonable cause or evidence to suspect a patient may intentionally or unintentionally physically injure himself/herself or others, is unable to care for his/her own physical needs, or is in need of mental health treatment against his/her will.
 - B. This does not include a person whose mental processes have merely been weakened or impaired by reason of advanced years and the patient is under the supervision of family or another healthcare provider, unless the family or healthcare provider has activated EMS for a specific behavioral emergency.
 1. Attempt to persuade the patient that there is a need for evaluation and transport to the hospital.
 2. If persuasion is unsuccessful, contact Medical Control and relay the history of the event. Clearly indicate your suspicions and/or evidence and have the base station physician discuss the patient's needs with the parties involved in the situation.
 3. The EMS crew will then follow the direction of the base station physician in determining the disposition of the patient or termination of patient contact. Another agency's or party's opinion should not influence the EMS provider's assistance to a mental health need.

4. Under no circumstances does transport of the patient, whether voluntarily or against his/her will, commit the patient to a hospital admission. It simply enables the EMS providers to transport a person suspected to be in need of mental health treatment.
5. If a patient is combative or may harm self or others, call law enforcement for assistance and follow the *Patient Restraint Policy*.