

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

CP 9.0 Patient Defined

Title: Patient Defined
Effective Date: April 1, 2015
Authorized By: Keith Wesley, MD Medical Director
Standard: Patient Care and Transport
Policy: HealthEast Medical Transportation will provide services to all persons requesting emergency medical services or those for whom it is reasonable to believe may require such services.

I. Purpose

To establish criteria to define those who should be considered a patient in the HealthEast Medical Transportation system as it relates to emergency medical services.

II. Definition

- A. The definition of a patient is any human being that had any of the following;
- Has a complaint suggestive of potential illness or injury
 - Requests evaluation for potential illness or injury
 - Has obvious evidence of illness or injury
 - Has experienced an acute event that could reasonably lead to illness or injury
 - Is in a circumstance or situation that could reasonably lead to illness or injury
 - Specifically, as it relates to individuals requesting assistance in returning to a seated, lying, or standing position or so called "Lift Assists" are to be considered patients.
- B. The definition of an adult is a person who is 18 years or age or older
- Adults have the legal right to consent to or refuse medical treatment
- C. The definition of a minor is a person under the age of 18
- D. An emancipated minor has the same rights as an adult and is defined as a person under the age of 18 who is;
- Emancipated – living separate from and financially independent of their parents, or
 - Married, or
 - Active member of the Armed Force
 - ***Note: The State of Minnesota does not have specific criteria/documents to indicate a state of emancipation. If you are uncertain; treat the patient as a minor until otherwise determined.***
- E. All individuals meeting any of the criteria in "A" are considered "patients". These criteria are to be considered in the broadest sense. The process of determining an individual's status as a patient requires the HEMT provider to properly assess the circumstances that led to the call for service. If there are any questions or doubt, the individual must be considered a patient.

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III. Procedure

- A. Anyone that fits the definition of a patient must be properly assessed by a credentialed HEMT provider and appropriate treatment and transportation offered. If the patient refuses offered assessment, treatment, and/or transportation refer to the No Transport and Refusal of Care policy.
- B. Anyone that meets the definition of a patient as defined above must have a Patient Care Report completed.
- C. Unless HEMT is cancelled prior to making patient contact an ALS assessment will be performed on all patients. This includes patients already receiving care by a BLS unit (HEMT or SMFD) prior to ALS arrival.

IV. Exceptions

- A. During an MCI the determination of what constitutes a patient and consequently the manner of documentation may be modified so as to document sufficiently to facilitate rapid triage, treatment, and transport of the injured.

Previous Reviews/Revisions: