



**North Country
Regional Emergency Medical
Advisory Committee**

Policy Statement

Serving: St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Lewis Counties

No. 11-01

Date: 12/1/10
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Re: Refusing Medical Care

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Supersedes:

The North Country Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee has developed a regional refusal form and patient instruction sheet that should be used by **all** agencies who do not have an alternative electronic refusal of emergency medical care form.

NYS Basic Life Support Protocols contain the following excerpts
Refusal of Medical Attention

Patients who have the medical decision-making capacity (ability to understand the nature and consequences of their medical care decision) and wish to refuse care/transport may do so after the provider has:

- *Determined the patient exhibits the ability to understand the nature and consequences of refusing care/transport*
- *Offered transport to a hospital*
- *Explained the risks of refusing care/transport*
- *Explained that by refusing care/transport, the possibility of serious illness, permanent disability, and death may increase*
- *Advised the patient to seek medical attention and gave instructions for follow-up care*
- *Confirmed that the patient understood these directions*
- *Left the patient in the care of a responsible adult (when possible)*
- *Advised the patient to call again with any return of symptoms or if he or she wishes to be transported*

In reviewing pre-hospital care reports for patients who have refused medical aid there is a lack of documentation of the following items:

- Patient's mental capacity
- Risks and consequences were explained to and understood by the patient

This form will provide a tool for the EMS provider to document that the patient has decision making capacity, clarification of what the patient has refused, and a section to document that the patient has been advised of risks and consequences of RMA.

The Patient refusal form is to be attached to the PCR and maintained at the agency in accordance with your departments' policy and NYS EMS Policy Statement 08-03 Records Retention.

For more information on RMA please refer to the following:

- NYS Basic Life Support Protocols – Refusal of Medical Attention
- Current NYS Collaborative Protocols- Refusal of Medical Attention
- NYS Policy Statements 99-09 Patient Care and Consent for Minors

Only EMT's certified at the Basic level or above can allow a patient to "sign off" or refuse care