NOR-CAL EMS	05-0820	Care of minors
Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual		BLS/ALS Protocols
Effective Date: 03/01/2021		Next Revision: 03/01/2023
Approval: Jeffrey Kepple MD – MEDICAL DIRECTOR		SIGNATURE ON FILE

Authority

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

Definitions

Minor- Any person under the age of 18 years.

Emancipated Minor- A person under the age of 18 years who is married, on active duty in the military or emancipated by the courts.

Legal Guardian- An individual granted legal authority to care for another individual (Health Care Power of attorney, Legal Guardianship)

Parent- The lawful mother or father of a non-emancipated minor

Emergency- situation requiring immediate services for alleviation of severe pain or immediate diagnosis of unforeseen medical conditions which if not immediately diagnosed and treated would lead to serious disability or death.

Policy

1) EMS personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent/legal guardian of a non-emancipated minor of the situation requiring EMS care, and where their child has been transported – unless criteria (below) not requiring consent are met.

2) If EMS personnel believe a parent or legal guardian is making a decision which appears to be endangering the health and welfare of a minor patient, law enforcement involvement shall be considered.

Parental/Legal Guardian consent is NOT required if meets one of the following:

1) Minor has an **Emergency** Medical condition and parental/legal guardian is not available.
2) Minor is Emancipated.
3) Self-sufficient minor 15 years or older: living separate and apart from their parents and managing their own financial affairs.
4) 12 years or older and in need of medical care for infectious, contagious communicable disease or for sexually transmitted disease.
5) 12 years or older and in need of medical care for drug or alcohol abuse.
6) Is in need of medical care for pregnancy, rape or sexual assault.

Providers may NOT inform Parental/Legal guardian without the MINOR'S consent in the following situations:

1) 12 years or older and in need of medical care for infectious, contagious and communicable disease or for sexually transmitted disease
2) Is pregnant and requires medical care related to pregnancy
3) Is in need of medical care for rape or sexual assault

Minor Refusing Care (If minor is refusing any indicated exam, treatment, or transport and does not meet the parental/guardian non-consent criteria)

1) EMS personnel shall make every effort to inform and obtain consent from parent/legal guardian
2) Make Base Hospital Contact and advise them of situation
3) Consider involving law enforcement, advise them of concerns.
4) Refer to **Refusal of care policy 05-0104**