	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	2105.01
	PROGRAM DOCUMENT: **Patient Elopement or AMA After Arrival at a Hospital**	Initial Date:	11/01/24
		Last Approval Date:	03/26/24
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Signature on File   Signature on File

EMS Medical Director   EMS Administrator

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Purpose:

    A. To establish guidelines for EMS and Hospital personnel in the event where a patient leaves ~~against medical advice (AMA) or~~ elopes after EMS arrival at a hospital.

Authority:

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

Definitions:

Against Medical Advice (AMA): The refusal of treatment or transport by an emergency patient or his/her designated decision maker against the advice of the medical personnel on scene or of the Base Hospital.

Elopement: Departure of a patient from the scene or hospital at which the patient has refused to comply with established procedures for refusing care or treatment. They are aware that they should not leave but do so with intent.

Policy:

Regardless of the amount of time in the Emergency Department, if a patient requests to leave, the following will occur:

    A. The EMS crew will notify an RN, or higher, of the patient's intent to leave prior to being seen by hospital staff.
    B. The hospital RN will notify the appropriate staff as per facility protocols.
    C. The hospital, at that time, will take full responsibility of care for the patient and complete any necessary documentation.
    D. EMS crews at no time will have the responsibility to prevent, in any way, the patient from leaving.
    E. At no time will the EMS personnel remove any identifying wristband or assist the patient in leaving the facility.

    F. The EMS crew will fully document the interactions to include the names of ED personnel communicated with and at what times.

    G. This is not considered a patient refusal of prehospital care. Treated and transported documentation should be completed.