

**Department of Health Services**  
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Director

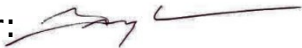


**Divisions**  
Administration  
Behavioral Health  
Primary Health  
Public Health

## County of Sacramento

**Date:** January 10, 2024

**To:** All Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SCEMSA) Stakeholders

**From:** Dr. Gregory Kann, SCEMSA Medical Director: 

**Subject:** Patient Elopment/AMA After Arrival to Hospital

This memo is to serve as guidance to EMS and Hospital personnel in the event a patient requests to leave the hospital prior to being seen but after arrival to the Emergency Department.

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

1. The EMS crew will notify an RN, or higher, of the patient's intent to leave prior to being seen.
2. The hospital RN will notify the appropriate management or doctor as per the facility protocols.
3. The hospital, at that time, will take full responsibility of care for the patient and complete any necessary documentation.
4. The EMS crew at no time will have the responsibility to prevent, in any way, the patient from leaving.
5. At no time will the EMS personnel remove any identifying wristband or assist the patient in leaving the facility.
6. The EMS crew will fully document the interactions to include the names of ED personnel communicated with and at what times.

Further clarification and policy will be released within the next few months.

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