

Oakland County Medical Control Authority EMS Advisory



EMS Advisory			
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Title:	Transport of Psychiatric Patients		
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TRANSPORT OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

It has been brought to our attention that some psychiatric patients are being transported directly to a psychiatric facility, not an approved OCMCA hospital. If your agency responds to a call for a psychiatric patient that is not in a licensed medical facility (i.e. a hospital), Michigan law and OCMCA protocol requires the patient be transported to an approved OCMCA hospital for medical clearance. Any deviation of protocol must have the consent of on-line medical control and documented.

For clarification, there are basically two types of calls for psychiatric patients, which include:

- Inter-facility non-emergent transports. This type of patient is being transported from one healthcare facility (i.e., hospital, private psychiatrist's office, etc.) to a psychiatric facility for admission. This type of call does not require medical clearance by on-line medical control since a physician has already evaluated the patient.
- A 911 response or any response to a private residence or group home for a committal. These calls for service will need to be transported to an OCMCA hospital or need the consent of on-line medical control to transport to a non-OCMCA participating facility, such as Common Ground, since a physician has not necessarily evaluated the patient.

If your Life Support Agency is participating in this practice, you must immediately rectify this issue. PSRO will be evaluating any deviation from protocol in order to continue to enhance patient safety in our EMS system.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA at 248 975-9704.