



North Region EMS System

Policy Section #	Patient Care	
	PC 101	Date 3/2020
Title	Abandonment - Patient	
Page	1 of 1	

Purpose To provide for continuity of appropriate medical care and identify when EMS providers may discontinue patient care.

- Policy**
- 1) Abandonment may occur when a provider-patient relationship, once established, is intentionally reduced or ended by EMS personnel without consent of the patient. This patient relationship can only end when:
 - a. The patient ends the relationship.
 - b. Patient care is transferred to another qualified medical professional.
 - 2) EMS providers may not leave a patient if a needs exists for continuing medical care. Exceptions:
 - a. Presence and availability of individual with comparable or higher licensure assume responsibility for patient care.
 - b. EMS personnel are physically unable to continue care due to exhaustion or injury.
 - c. Law enforcement, fire officials, or EMS crew determine the scene is not safe and immediate life or injury hazards exist.
 - d. Patient has been determined to be deceased or to have a valid DNR.
 - e. Specifically requested to leave the scene due to an emergent specific need (e.g., triage, mass casualty disaster).
 - f. Decisional patient refuses care.

References <http://www.jems.com/articles/2007/09/patient-abandonment-what-it-an-0.html>
<http://www.jems.com/articles/2008/02/patient-abandonment-part-two.html>

Evert Gerritsen
EMS System Administrator/Coordinator

Michael I. Peters, MD
EMS Medical Director

Written 6/2017
Reviewed/Revised 3/17/2020
IDPH Approval 9/07/2023
Effective 9/07/2023