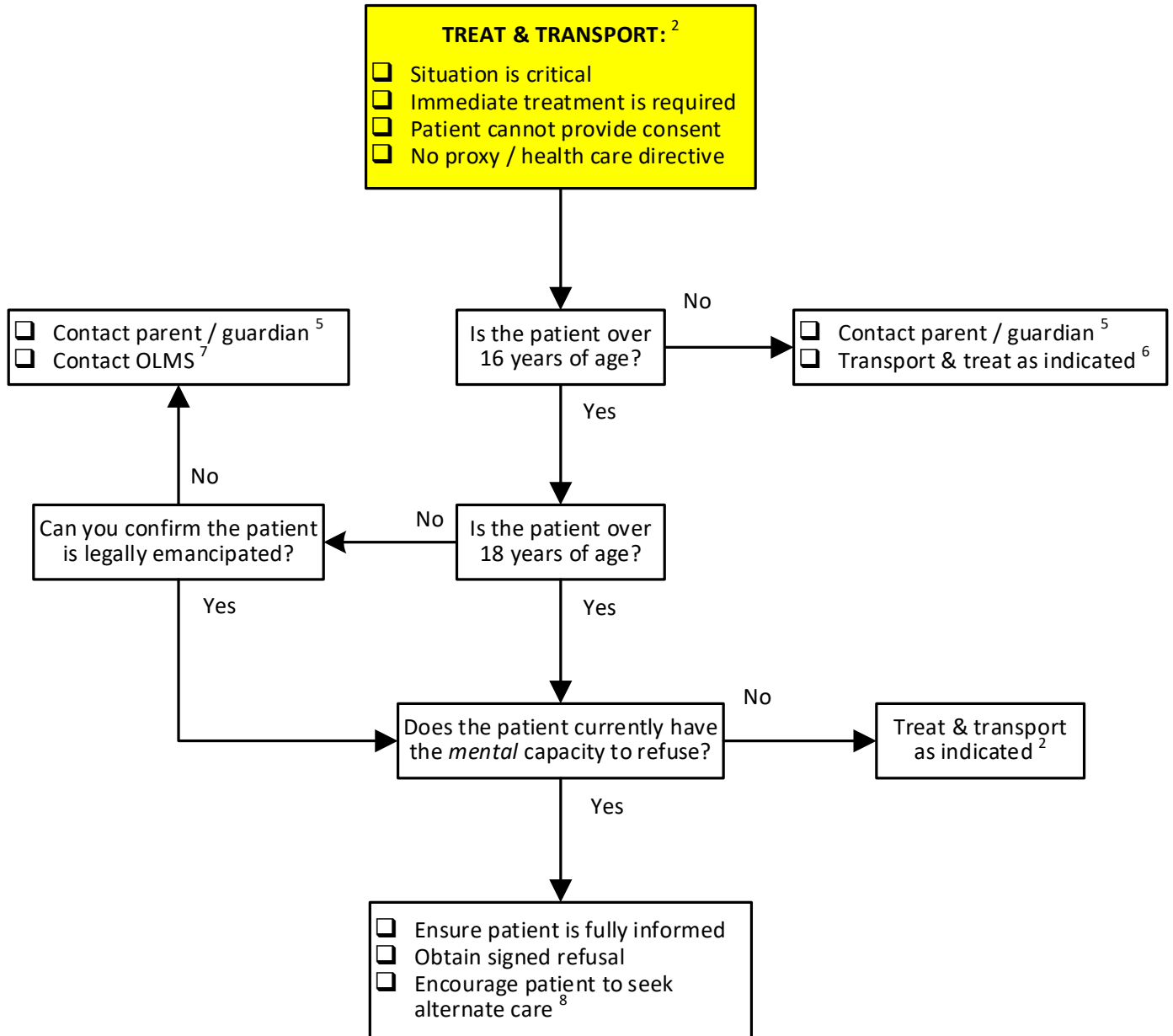
	<b>A05 - TREATMENT &amp; TRANSPORT REFUSAL</b>	
	POLICIES & PROCEDURES	
Version date: 2022-09-08	Effective date: 2022-09-27 (0700 hrs)	



### NOTES

*(Refer to appendix A for definitions & more information)*

1. Patients have the right to make their own decisions about their health care, including the right to refuse treatment and ambulance transport. Consent to treatment and transport cannot be assumed by calling 911.
2. Treat and transport under the principle of *implied consent* if:
  - a. The patient's condition and time-sensitive
  - b. Immediate treatment is required to save life, limb, or vital function.
  - c. The patient cannot provide consent
  - d. There is no substitute decision maker (proxy) readily available.
  - e. There is not health care directive indicating the patient's goals of care.
3. Refusals are a potentially high-risk situation. Consult the on-line medical support (OLMS) physician at any time for assistance. A patient's signature alone may not be enough. Complete and appropriate documentation of the consent / refusal discussion is essential.
4. Paramedics will transport all patients from primary response calls, except when:
  - a. The patient or their proxy withholds consent (makes a valid refusal).
  - b. There is an EMS/PT treat and release protocol that allows for treatment without transporting.
  - c. A qualified health care provider maintains responsibility for the patient's care.<sup>10</sup>
5. Paramedics should make reasonable efforts to contact the parent or guardian of any patient under the age of 18 years, except where:
  - a. The situation is critical, and time is of the essence.
  - b. There is reasonable concern for the safety of the patient, such as with suspected abuse or neglect by the parent or guardian.
  - c. It can be confirmed that the patient is legally emancipated.
6. **If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, patients under 16 years of age must be treated as clinically indicated and transported to a health care facility.** Persons under 16 years of age (unless legally emancipated) do not have the legal capacity to make their own health care decisions.
7. **If a parent or guardian cannot be reached paramedics must contact the on-line medical support (OLMS) physician for patients between the ages of 16 and 18 years.** The physician can assist with determining the best course of action if a minor patient is refusing treatment or transport.
8. Do not leaving medications or devices with a patient.
9. If requested by law enforcement or any other agency to provide *medical clearance*, paramedics must advise that the patient should be transported to a health care facility for a medical assessment. While law enforcement has the authority to take an individual into custody and maintain custody of an individual, they cannot provide consent or refusal on behalf of a patient.
10. In the event of a request from a health care facility such as a personal care for a *lift-assist*, paramedics must independently assess the patient and determine if there is any need for transport to a hospital. If transport is not indicated, a qualified health care provider at the facility must assume ongoing responsibility for the patient.  
  
In the event of a request from a member of the public for assistance in a private home, the patient or their proxy must be advised to be that they should be transported to a health care facility for a medical assessment.

LINKS & REFERENCES
H05 - PRINCIPLES OF CONSENT

APPROVED BY	
	
Medical Director - Provincial EMS/PT	Associate Medical Director - Provincial EMS/PT

VERSION CHANGES (refer to X01 for change tracking)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance statement moved out of header to become policy &amp; procedure A03</li> <li>• Work scope statement added to header</li> <li>• Simplified flow chart</li> <li>• Further clarification around principles of valid consent, capacity, and mature / emancipated minors</li> <li>• Removal of table A (no current treat &amp; release protocols)</li> <li>• Appendix A converted to reference H05</li> </ul>