

Treatment for Patients Under Age 18

1. **Persons Subject to this Policy:** This Policy applies to persons under the age of 18 (except those that have an Order of Emancipation from a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court) who are in need of medical or surgical treatment, including such person who report being sick or injured; who have obvious injury; and/or have a significant mechanism of injury which suggests the need for medical evaluation.
2. **Authority of Parents, Guardians or Others:** Parents have the authority to direct or refuse to allow treatment of their children. A court appointed guardian, and any adult person standing *in loco parentis*, also has the same authority. "In loco parentis" is defined as "[I]n the place of a parent; instead of a parent; charged, fictitiously, with a parent's rights, duties, and responsibilities." Black's Law Dictionary, 708 (5th ed. 1979). 1987-88 Va. Op. Atty. Gen. 617 "Furthermore, I would point out that §54-325.2(6) allows any person standing "in locos parentis" to consent to medical treatment for a minor child. This signifies, in my judgment, an intent to allow any responsible adult person, who acts in the place of a parent, to consent to the treatment of a minor child, particularly in emergency situations." 1983-84 VA. Op. Atty. Gen. 219. Such a person may be a relative, schoolteacher or principle, school bus driver, baby-sitter, neighbor, or other adult person in whose care of the child has been entrusted.
3. **Persons Subject to Policy with Altered Mental Status:** A person meeting the criteria of paragraph 1 that is unconscious, has an altered mental status, signs of alcohol or substance abuse or head injury shall be treated under implied consent and transported, unless a parent or guardian advises otherwise. Medical control must be consulted if a parent or guardian or person *in loco parentis* refuses to allow treatment or transport.
4. **Persons Subject to Policy Under Age 14:** A person meeting the criteria of paragraph 1 that is under the age of 14 shall be treated and transported unless a parent or guardian or person *in locos parentis* advises otherwise. Do not delay treatment or transport for extended periods simply trying to contact a parent or guardian. If you believe that treatment is necessary, but the parent or guardian or person *in locos parentis* refuses to allow treatment, medical control should be consulted.
5. **Persons Subject to Policy Aged 14-18:** A person meeting the criteria of paragraph 1 who is between the ages of 14 and 18 may refuse treatment and transport, unless a parent or guardian or person *in locos parentis* advises otherwise. If you believe that treatment is necessary, but the person refuses, an attempt should be made to contact a parent or guardian, and medical control should be consulted. If you believe that treatment is necessary, but the parent or guardian or person *in locos parentis* refuses to allow treatment, medical control should be consulted.

Treatment for Patients Under Age 18 (continued)

6. **Persons Subject to Policy Married or Previously Married:** A person meeting the criteria of paragraph 1 who is, or has been married, shall be deemed an adult for purposes of consenting or refusing medical treatment. Code of Virginia § 54.1-2969.
7. **Persons Subject to Policy that are Pregnant:** A person subject to this policy that is pregnant shall be deemed an adult for the sole purpose of giving consent for herself and her child to medical treatment relating to the delivery of her child; thereafter, the minor mother of such child shall be also be deemed an adult for the purpose of giving consent to medical treatment for her child. Code of Virginia § 54.1-2969.
8. **Pediatric Non-Transport:** All pediatric patients under four (4) years of age who are not going to be transported after 911 access has been made will need to consult with Medical Control via UVa MedCom (434) 924-9287. Document all pertinent information including physician's name involved with the consultation.