



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

Developed by: Will Smith
Will Smith, MD, Medical Director

Approved by: Brady Hansen
Brady Hansen, Chief

Title: **Treat and Release of
minor injury/illness**
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PURPOSE/DEFINITIONS

This Treat and Release (T & R) guideline refers to the non-emergent onsite assessment/treatment of a patient with minor injury/illness that requires only basic first aid and does not require transport to a health care facility (ex: minor orthopedic injuries, minor lacerations, heat exhaustion, stable presentations of infectious disease, etc).

T&R cannot be fully driven by protocol, rather it relies upon a provider to utilize sound clinical judgement. A provider is never obligated to practice T&R. Patients requiring assessment or treatment beyond basic first aid should involve transport or documentation of a patient refusal.

T & R encompasses assessment/treatment and one of the following:

- transfer of patient to self-management or management provided by associate or relative;
- referral to a clinic or other appropriate medical/first-aid facility for additional care;
- arrangement for transport by alternative method (e.g. private vehicle or taxi service).

INDICATIONS/CONDITIONS/LIMITATIONS:

T&R should be considered when:

- evaluation identifies no illness or injury likely to result in patient harm if the patient does not immediately go to the hospital or see a health care provider.
- minor illnesses and/or injuries can be managed with basic first aid interventions
- during declared disasters, MCIs, Emerging Infectious Disease and providers judge a patient's condition warrants T&R, and when the consequent condition of the greater emergency response system would benefit from consideration and use of T&R methodology.

T&R should be avoided and caution exercised when:

- associated with alteration in mental status or behavior, intoxication or the patient is mentally ill

- vital signs are not normal (BP, pulse, respiratory rate)
- patient has abdominal pain, chest pain or neck pain
- patient is an unaccompanied minor
- patient is pregnant
- situation has potential legal implications or the scene is unstable/threatening (e.g., assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, illicit drug use)
- there exists bleeding in a patient taking anticoagulants

GENERAL PROCEDURE:

- All procedures, interventions, and medication administration will conform to current protocols
- Providers should utilize medical control consultation as needed.
- Patients presenting with Emerging Infectious Disease symptoms who do not require transport should be referred to their personal physician, clinic or public health for follow-up.
- Document the patient contact.
 - Special Events: Basic first aid treatment should be documented on the Special Event minor injury/illness record and does not require an ePCR. Treatment beyond this level of assessment/care or a refusal of care should be documented on an ePCR.
 - Responses initiated by an apparatus should be documented on the ePCR as a Treat & Release with basic assessment and care documented.