

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>200.16 TREATMENT OF MINORS</b>		
<b>APPROVAL:</b>	VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS;		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2024</b>			<b>ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC</b>		<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	

**I. Purpose:**

To insure the wellbeing of any minor in need of medical care when the consent for treatment of the minor's legal guardian is not available.

**II. Policy:**

Under Illinois law, any person under 18 years of age is considered to be a minor and not eligible to consent for treatment. In these circumstances, the consent of a parent or legal guardian is required. If, in the opinion of the physician and the pre-hospital provider, a delay in obtaining consent would adversely affect the condition of the minor's health, emergency treatment may be rendered without first obtaining the consent. This requires a conversation between the pre-hospital provider and Medical Control.

**A. This principle does not apply in the following situations:**

1. A parent refuses to consent stating religious or other non-medical objections.
2. In cases of suspected child abuse, sexual abuse/assault, or neglect.
3. When the minor is married, pregnant, emancipated, or a minor parent.

**B. Special Circumstances:**

1. A pregnant minor and minors who are married are qualified to consent on their own behalf.
2. Minor parents may consent to treatment of their minor child and for themselves. (2015 Illinois law change)
3. Emancipated minors are mature minors (between 16 years of age and under 18 years of age) who have demonstrated the ability and capacity to manage their own affairs and live, wholly or partially, independent of parents or guardians.
4. Minors 12 years of age or older who:
  - a. have come into contact with a venereal disease
  - b. are suffering from the use of depressant or stimulant drugs
  - c. suspected to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
5. Guardianship is a legally determined role. Official court documents are issued to identify the legal guardian(s).

6. Babysitters and day care providers are not legally empowered to provide consent unless written parental consent is provided; however, in all cases, the minor child's condition should be the deciding factor in providing care. If in doubt, contact Medical Control.

Document all of the circumstances and assessment on the Patient Care Report and communicate with Medical Control.

**Approval:**

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**James Kirchner** **Date**  
**Vice President of Professional Services**

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**Kathleen Geiger MSN, RN** **Date**  
**Manager of EMS & Emergency Management**