CENTRAL DUPAGE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM

CARE OF PATIENT SUFFERING FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

INTRODUCTION & APPROVAL: 3/90	EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR: _____
REVIEW & APPROVAL: 6/92	EMSS COORDINATOR: _____
REVISION & APPROVAL: 6/96, 2/09	

PURPOSE: To ensure the well being of an emotionally or behaviorally disturbed patient in the pre-hospital setting.

POLICY:

In caring for the patient suffering from a psychological emergency, the pre-hospital providers should attempt to transport these patients in order to obtain the necessary care to protect the patient and those around him/her.

1. Emotionally disturbed patients should be assessed in order to identify potential physical reasons for the patient's behavior (i.e. diabetes, head injury, environmental emergencies, drug or alcohol abuse).

2. If the patient is alert and oriented and is in no apparent danger to himself and others, he/she has the right to consent for or refuse treatment and/or transportation to any facility.

3. If the patient refuses treatment and/or transport to any facility, the Refusal Form is to be completed appropriately.

4. If the patient is a danger to himself or others, the patient can be taken against his or her will to the Emergency Department for further assessment and appropriate treatment.

5. The use of physical restraints are to be kept to minimum and reserved for those patients at risk of doing harm to themselves and/or others.

6. If restraints are used, the type, time and application, and rationale must be documented in the patient care report . Should they be removed at any time, the time of removal is to be documented. (Refer to Restraints Policy)