



3340 Glenwood Street, Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 445-2081 (800) 282-0088 FAX (707) 445-0443

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE :** November 26, 1999

**TO:** PCNCs and Provider Liaisons

**FROM:** Louis Bruhnke, Coordinator North Coast EMS

**RE:** AMAs: **Please Post**

---

Paramedic and EMT-II responders who leave the scene prior to reporting an "Against Medical Advice" (AMA) patient decision thereby release the Base Hospital of all potential future liability related to that decision.

North Coast EMS agrees that devoting MedNet airtime to a full patient report under these circumstances serves no practical purpose.

Paramedics and EMT-II who have left the scene prior to reporting an AMA should restrict their radio report to a confirmation that their patient(s) have "signed AMA".

North Coast EMS encourages all Paramedics and EMT-IIs to report AMAs from scene, particularly when responding to patients of high acuity. In these cases the Base Hospital physician or MICN should be given the opportunity to confer directly with the patient. This recorded audio record of the prehospital responder's efforts to persuade the patient to follow medical advice offers that responder some additional measure of insurance against potential future liability.