



**Operational Policy
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY**

It is important that the EMS Provider serve as a patient advocate and use their best judgment to assist LE/EA/APS in making safe, appropriate decisions regarding medical aid and disposition decisions.

Patient Presentation:

Inclusion Criteria

EMS immediate concern for patient or others safety

Pt identified as meeting criteria for Emergency Protective Placement (EPP) by any of the following:

- Emergency Assistant (EA),
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Law Enforcement (LE)

WI Statute Chapter 51

State alcohol, drug abuse, developmental disabilities and mental health act

Provides legal procedures for voluntary and involuntary admission, treatment and rehabilitation of individuals (adults and minor children) afflicted with mental illness, developmental disability, drug dependency, or alcoholism.

WI Statute Chapter 55

Protective services system

Provides legal procedures for emergency protective placements if it is probable that an individual is incapable of providing for his or her own care or custody so as to create a substantial risk of physical harm to himself, herself or others if protective intervention is not immediately taken.

- In Milwaukee county only an authorized Emergency Assistant (EA) or a Milwaukee County Adult Protective Services (APS) worker may detain the person at an appropriate facility and initiate an emergency protective placement.
- Milwaukee County EA/APS will contact EMS or local law enforcement to transport as needed under authority of Chapter 55 Emergency Detention Process.

- ❖ For patients 60 years and older, contact Milwaukee County Department on Aging at 414-289-6874
- ❖ For patients under 60 years of age, contact Milwaukee County Disability Services Division at 414-289-6660

Patient Safety Considerations

Consider mandatory requirement or high risk reporting for suspected victims of child abuse and neglect, human trafficking, elder abuse, adult-at-risk, etc. Report to law enforcement agency or hospital staff.

Quality Improvement:

- Key Documentation Elements
- 1. Basis for emergency protective placement
- 2. LE/EA/APS agency, name, badge
- 3. Destination or refusal decision

