

**Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.**  
Standard Operating Guideline

**Transport of Psychiatric Patients**

*Revised September 4, 2002*

**Purpose:**

Psychiatric patients present unique challenges to EMS providers. Frequently, psychiatric patients do not desire to be transported to a hospital and require forced transport. In addition, not every hospital is deemed capable of receiving and treating patients with psychiatric problems. This guideline is designed to aid the EMS provider by clarifying the actions they should perform.

**Policy:**

Whenever a psychiatric patient is encountered, the following procedures shall be followed:

- 1) If the patient is at risk of harming themselves or others, the Police shall be contacted.
- 2) In the event that a patient is being sent to the hospital under a 941 or 945 police order, the police officer issuing the order shall accompany the patient in the ambulance or follow behind. The determination of whether the police officer rides or follows shall be at the discretion of the EMT in charge of patient care.
- 3) If the patient has to be restrained, the patient may be restrained in accordance with the WREMS treatment protocols. Additionally, on-line medical direction may direct the restraint of a patient. The Town of Hamburg Police shall assist in any patient restraint attempts whenever possible.
- 4) At no time should the EMS crew place themselves in any danger.
- 5) Patients being transported under a 941 or 945 police order shall be transported to either the Erie County Medical Center or Buffalo General Hospital as directed by the police, crisis services or on-line medical direction. If a psychiatric patient suffered any traumatic injuries, they shall be transported to the Erie County Medical Center for trauma services.