

SPARKS FIRE DEPARTMENT OMEGA RELEASE PROTOCOL

Policy

REMSA has developed an alternative medical care program in lieu of ambulance transport for patients calling into the 911 system with non-emergent, low acuity medical complaints. These types of calls are known as "Omegas." An Omega determination is made through the REMSA's Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) process. If a 911 caller meets the Omega criteria, the caller is transferred to REMSA's Nurse Health Line where a REMSA Emergency Communications Nurse (ECN) will assess the patient over the phone and determine the most appropriate method of care and/or treatment. Typically, an Omega call will not require an ambulance or fire department response.

If a Sparks Fire Department (SFD) unit is dispatched prior to the Omega determination being made, and the responding SFD unit subsequently learns the call has been classified as an Omega, the SFD unit is authorized to cancel while still enroute. Due to the possible delay in identifying Omegas calls, SFD units are encouraged to contact REMSA dispatch, on REMSA 1, to obtain additional information on all EMS calls.

In the event an SFD EMS provider arrives on scene of an Omega call and subsequently learns of the Omega determination, the SFD EMS provider will do the following:

- Establish communication via telephone with the ECN to confirm that REMSA has determined an alternative care pathway is medically appropriate (REMSA Dispatch 775-858-6005).
- Upon receiving verbal confirmation from the ECN that an alternative care pathway is medically appropriate, and agreed to by the patient, the SFD EMS provider may either:
 - Release from the scene if the SFD EMS provider concurs with the ECN's determination based on the SFD EMS provider's observation and after completing the Omega Patient Consent and Release of Liability form.

Or,

- If the SFD EMS provider has a medically justified reason for disagreeing with the ECN's assessment based on patient observations, and communicated to the ECN, the SFD EMS provider can request a REMSA ambulance response through Sparks Dispatch. The SFD EMS provider will remain on scene until the arrival of a REMSA ambulance, supervisor, or other medical resource.
- The SFD EMS provider will document all communications in their incident report.
- A completed copy of the Omega Patient Consent and Release of Liability form will be submitted to the Department's EMS Coordinator.