

STEADIER GROUND FIELD CARD

Refusing Transport After a Fall or Medical Event

TRY SAYING

- "Tell me what you think happened tonight." (this is your capacity assessment)
- "They'll check you over and then we'll get you back home," if it's true.
- "Your daughter would feel better if we got that looked at."
- "Let's just get you off the floor first."

AVOID SAYING

- "You don't get to make that decision." May be wrong, and starts a fight.
- "You could die." Can't be retained. Lands as a threat.

WORKING THE REFUSAL

1. Dementia alone does not remove capacity. Assess and document it specifically.
2. Rule out reversible causes: hypoxia, hypoglycemia, shock, sepsis, head injury, stroke, medications.
3. Family can persuade. Family cannot refuse for a patient lacking capacity without healthcare POA or guardianship.
4. Contact medical control early where refusal carries real risk.

Capacity check: can they explain the situation, the options, the consequences of refusing, and hold to a choice?

No capacity, no authorized decision-maker, emergency condition: implied consent per your protocol.

find steadier ground

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