

LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL: PATIENT SUPERVISION

1. POLICY

1.1. The Police and Security Department must be notified in advance when possible of all patients that are in law enforcement (i.e. police officers external to the hospital) custody upon arrival, transfer and discharge.

1.2 During the patient/prisoner's stay, existing concerns from staff members should be referred to the Police and Security Department who will act as the liaison with the law enforcement authority who have protective custody of the prisoner.

1.3 Police and Security will work in collaboration with outside law enforcement agencies to assist in the protection of the staff.

1.4 Unless an exception is approved by the Director of Police and Security or a designee, all patient/prisoners will be classified as full restriction access/confidential patient or private encounter.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 **Staffing:** Inpatient prisoners shall be optimally monitored by two law enforcement Officers when possible. Exceptions to this policy are made by the Police and Security Director or designee. The procedure for adult patient restraint shall be adhered to for prisoners unless it directly interferes with required medical treatment. Hospital Police and/or Security or external law enforcement officers assigned to guard a patient are not to function as observers. *(Click Related Documents Link at top of page for "Patients at Risk for Suicide: Care of")*.

2.2 **Hospital Policy and Procedures:** Nursing staff on the unit or Police and Security personnel should inform external law enforcement officers of pertinent hospital policies and procedures: fire safety plan, floor plan, chain of communication, restraint policy, and infection control procedures. Police and Security staff will provide the Guide for Corrections, Law Enforcement Personnel Forensics brochure to law enforcement officers.

2.3 **Firearms:** External law enforcement officers assigned to supervise the patient/prisoner are permitted to carry firearms as authorized by the attending law enforcement personnel or the Police and Security Director.

2.4 **Visitation and Gifts:** No gifts or visitors will be allowed. Exceptions will be directed by Police and Security in conjunction with the external law enforcement officials and the clinical care team.

2.5 Medical Examinations: An external law enforcement officer has the legal right to remain with a patient during examination and emergency treatment. However, at the request of the patient and under the patient's right to confidentiality, the external law enforcement officer may be asked to remove himself/herself from within hearing range of the conversation if possible, while maintaining sight lines to the patient and without compromising public safety.

2.6 Firearms and Law Enforcement Equipment in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Examination Areas:

2.6.1 Ferrous (magnetic) objects in the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) environment can become projectiles and cause serious injury and/or death. Ferrous equipment (i.e: guns, handcuffs, radios, etc.) is not allowed within the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography MRI scan rooms (PETMR).

2.6.2 If a prisoner is having an imaging exam in one of these areas, one officer must be ready to provide assistance within the imaging room if needed. It is essential ferrous items be removed prior to the prisoner entering the scan room.

2.6.3 Weapons should be secured in the department's safe. If a safe is not available, the Police & Security Department can be contacted.

They will take possession of the weapon and secure in their safe during the examination.

2.7 Transfer: If a patient/prisoner requires transfer within the hospital, the nursing department will notify the Police and Security Department. When transfer is required to the Operating Room, law enforcement officers may remain in the area but are not permitted into the Operating Rooms. When medically appropriate for discharge a patient/prisoner should be released or transferred without delay.

2.8 Discharge: The Police and Security Department should be notified upon discharge.