

SUBJECT: PATIENT PRISONERS	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE:
DATE:	APPROVED BY:
REVISED/REVIEWED DATE:	SIGNATURE:

PURPOSE: To establish a set of standards and guideline for all patient-prisoners who are treated on hospital property.

POLICY: Police and Security personnel will provide a safe and secure environment for all parties involved when dealing with a patient-prisoner on hospital property.

PROCEDURES:

1. Upon arrival of a patient-prisoner, Police and Security should be notified of the following:
 - a. Patient's name
 - b. Unit number
 - c. Room number
 - d. Municipality or correctional facility responsible for guarding the patient.
 - e. Name of the guarding officers

2. Upon notification, an Officer will be dispatched to the location of the patient-prisoner and will do the following:
 - a. Meet with the guarding unit to establish a point of contact and address any concerns by either hospital staff, Police and Security or the guarding municipality.
 - b. Ensure that the patient is placed on "Full Restriction".
 - c. If the patient is to be admitted, pass out the Forensic Standard pamphlet and review the procedure. Police and Security should meet with each municipality guarding the patient once per shift.

3. With safety as the highest priority, two officers will be assigned to the inpatient prisoner. Any deviation of the policy must be cleared through the Director of Police and Security.

4. The patient-prisoner cannot be placed in administrative restraints by Police and Security personnel unless

deemed unsafe by a physician in which the following alternatives can be utilized:

- a. Physician signs and order to have clinical restraints applied.
 - b. Chemical restraints can be placed on board.
5. The carrying of firearms by the guarding entities shall be authorized by the procedural guidelines set by the entity's own agency or by the Director of Police and Security. There are to be no firearms inside the psychiatric units or MRI areas.
 6. No visitors shall be allowed access to the patient-prisoner unless cleared through the guarding entity department. Any visitation will be arranged through the guarding entity's department, Police and Security and the Nursing staff administrator. Gifts for the prisoner will not be permitted. All visitors will be asked for positive identification and screened for weapons or contraband.
 7. Whoever is guarding the patient-prisoner has a legal right to stay with the patient at all times, except for the operating room. The guards will however, remain in the area.
 8. 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.
 9. Upon completion of medical treatment in which there is no longer a medical danger to the patient-prisoner, the hospital should avoid any unwarranted delay in the release or transfer of the patient-prisoner.
 10. Ankle bracelets - Not every patient wearing an ankle bracelet has it for a law enforcement reason. Some may be patient alarms to prevent wandering or elopement. Staff who see an ankle bracelet should ask the patient the

reason for them having the bracelet. If it is an alarm band, staff should contact the facility that issued it and advise them that we have the patient and that the band will be removed. If it is a law enforcement reason, then follow the steps below.

11. Patients sentenced to a Community Correction Center

- a. Upon receipt of a patient wearing an ankle tracking bracelet, Nursing staff will notify Police and Security who will in turn notify the Nursing Director or the Nurse Administrator.
- b. Security will also contact the Massachusetts Court Systems Electronic Monitoring Center (ELMO) at 1-978-365-2970 or 1-866-490-1166 and inform them of the patient's arrival and status (i.e., conscious, unconscious, routine ED visit, MedFlight, or outpatient appointment). ELMO will research if the patient belongs to either the Massachusetts or Federal court system. They will also determine if the patient is on probation or if he/she is a parolee. A decision will be made on how to handle the situation depending on the outcome of the information received. Officers can also check the bracelet for contact information to assist in this effort.
- c. If the ankle bracelet needs to be removed due to a medical necessity, ELMO will be notified as well as the patient's Probation Officer (if applicable). Once removed, the ankle bracelet will be brought to the Police and Security work area and for safekeeping in a secure evidence locker until such time that a member of the court system can retrieve the item.
- d. Security will then follow up with Nursing staff. Selective patrols of the area will be conducted for the duration of the patient's stay.
- e. Prior to the patient's discharge, ELMO, and the patient's Probation Officer will be contacted and informed of the discharge date.
- f. If a hospital employee is found to be wearing an ankle tracking bracelet, Police and Security will make the necessary contact to ELMO (above) and HR will be notified of the results and consulted for further action.