

## Template Handover Protocol for Patients Brought to ER by Police

Preamble;

This protocol applies to patients apprehended under the Mental Health Act and not being charged with a criminal offense. Patients being charged and brought for assessment, medical or psychiatric, but who will remain in police custody do not undergo a handover.

- Patient should be registered/documented as a referral from law enforcement (NACRS field 31).
- Police should complete an EDP form. Triage nurse should confirm form is legible, identifies the officers and their Division, and clearly documents the concerning behaviour leading to apprehension.
- ER staff (triage or primary nurse or delegate) should confirm with police the identity of the patient, any information regarding past medical or criminal history (outstanding warrants or charges) known to them, and whether the patient has been searched for weapons.
- Hospital security should be summoned to take over observation of the patient pending medical assessment and disposition.
- In most cases once documentation including EDP form has been completed and full report received, and security has arrived, police can be released. In some cases police may be required until patient is restrained; chemically or physically, or may be asked to assist with patient identification or contacting of next of kin.