
Management of Patients in Police Supervision/Custody in the ED

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Approved By:	Chief of Psychiatry Chief Emerg Medicine	Review Frequency:	3 years
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of establishing this policy and procedure for the management of mental health patients brought into the emergency department (ED) by police is to ensure that the safety needs of the patient and others are met in a safe and consistent manner. This policy and procedure will outline a collaborative approach to ensure a safe environment for both staff and mental health patients in police custody within the Emergency Department in accordance with the Mental Health Act. This policy and procedure reflects the Philosophy of Care at Halton Healthcare.

PHILOSOPHY:

The Emergency program in collaboration with our Mental Health partners share a vision to provide care which supports and respects individuals and families, values and dignity. Inter-professional staff endeavour to be approachable, empathetic and courteous. We are committed to provide accessible, responsive, safe, and ethical care.

PROCEDURE:

1. Mental health patients accompanied by Police into the ED in accordance with the Mental Health Act (section 17) will be triaged in accordance with CTAS guidelines and managed appropriately for their presenting condition.
2. Police will remain in supervision/custody of the patient until such time that the ED Physician assesses the patient. Upon completion of the physician's assessment, the physician and charge nurse in collaboration with police will ensure that the patient and environment are safe prior to the transfer of responsibility and care is assumed by HHS.
3. When the police officers have been released, ED staff in consultation with the mental health team will determine appropriate observation requirements to ensure both staff and patient safety.
4. The ED Physician will determine appropriate mental health referral of the patient, and facilitate medical assessment and stabilization prior to a Crisis Nurses' assessment.
5. If an increased level of observation is required, the patient will remain in the seclusion room, and/or on constant observation by both security staff and emergency staff.
6. Security staff may observe and report patient activity prior to completion of a Form 1. Under the Mental Health act a patient may only be detained if a physician has determined criteria for a Form 1 has been met. In crisis situations please refer to the policy and procedure for "Mechanical Restraint Use in Situations to Prevent Serious Bodily Harm".

References:

Mental Health Act
HHS Mission, Vision and Values Statement.

Reviewed in Consultation With:

PPC Emergency Department
 PCM Emergency
 Program Director Emergency Department
 Crisis Nurse
 Mental Health Patient Care Manager
 Mental Health Program Leader
 Paladin Security Supervisor
 Manager of Parking, Security and Emergency Measures
 Chief of Psychiatry
 Emergency Program Teams; GH, MDH, OTMH

Key Words:

Detention, Police

Other policies related to topic:

Medical Clearance for Psychiatric Patients in the Emergency Department
 Referrals from the OTMH Emergency Room Department to the Crisis Team
 Usage of Seclusion Room in the Emergency Department at OTMH
 Mechanical Restraint Use in Situations to Prevent Serious Bodily Harm

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