

# 1 District – Processing Mental Health Apprehensions

October 2011

In order to expedite the process of mental health patients who are apprehended, or transported by police, the following protocol has been developed and approved by the Police Service and Halton Healthcare:

- *If officers transport an individual on the authority of a Form 1, they will not immediately be admitted into the OTMH Psychiatric Facility. The individual will need to be **medically cleared** by OTMH ER staff.*
- *If officers apprehend an individual pursuant to their authority under the Mental Health Act, and there are **no apparent medical issues**, they may transport the individual directly to the OTMH- ER department. Once there, they will be processed through the ER department.*
- *If officers apprehend an individual pursuant to their authority under the Mental Health Act and **a medical condition is apparent** – e.g. a possible overdose, injuries or illness etc., the individual will first need to be medically cleared at the nearest hospital (Georgetown or Milton) before being transported to OTMH. Once at OTMH, the officer(s) will advise ER staff that they have just left Georgetown or Milton hospital with a medical clearance and this will expedite the process.*

## **Halton Healthcare Memo (2009)**

*“OTMH staff - ER and Crisis Staff, are making efforts to communicate to officers when they have accepted custody and therefore when officers can leave. On occasion OTMH staff gets busy and forget to follow up with the officers - this is when attending officers need to professionally be vocal and specifically inquire if OTMH has accepted custody and therefore they can leave... ..when the patient is seen by the ER physician, **the disposition is then determined and ER has accepted full responsibility of the patients needs**. If the ER physician feels the need to Form the patient, they do so, and if not they do not. But what happens after the initial ER physician assessment is totally up to the hospital/ ER physician... ..(HRPS staff) need to be vocal once they see the ER physician complete their initial assessment and take info from them. It is at that time that they should be saying to the ER physician “is there anything else you need from us before we go?” “*

If for some reason, the process is delayed further, please advise Inspector Nish Duraiappah of the circumstances in order for follow up to occur with the Program Directors of Mental Health Services and Emergency, Ambulatory Care and Cardio Respiratory Services.

The OTMH Crisis Team will facilitate the assessments as quickly as possible and officers will be released from the ER as soon as the hospital has **accepted** the individual.