

Patients Brought to hospital under Mental Health Act by Hamilton Police

Reference: St. Joseph's Healthcare Emergency Psychiatric Care Facility MOU

Purpose

1. To ensure a standardized approach to MHA patients arriving with the Police.
2. To ensure the safety of Hospital Staff, Patients, and Police.
3. To ensure Police officers delivering MHA patients are seen quickly to facilitate the departure of the Police from the facility within 30-60 minutes.

Policy

In the interest of providing patient and family centered care, the purpose of this policy and procedure is to complete the transition of care from Hamilton Police personnel to St. Joseph's Healthcare Emergency Psychiatric Facility within 30-60 minutes. With interdisciplinary and interagency commitment to this protocol, it is expected that a person who has been brought to emergency by police under the Mental Health Act (MHA) will receive timely, appropriate and safe service.

Hamilton Police Service responsibilities:

- If the patient is physically acting out, the Police Officer must ensure that the patient remains secured and supervised until hospital staff is prepared to assess and treat the patient. Police officers will assist hospital staff with security issues during this process.
- Police will remain with the person until the transfer of responsibility is complete. The transfer of responsibility is considered complete when the responsible hospital staff member and the police officer have reviewed the Observation/Transfer of Care form and both have signed off in the designated areas. (Low risk patient) or when the attending Physician has assessed the patient and the decision to place the patient on a Form 1 has been made.
- If the patient is placed on a Form 1, the Police Officer will remain with the patient until arrangements have been made to secure the patient in a safe environment. This includes escorting the patient to a secure room, securing the patient in restraints and/or securing the patients clothing and belongings, and briefing hospital security as required.
- Complete an **Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP)** form outlining the grounds for the MHA apprehension and leave a copy of the form with hospital staff.

St. Joseph's Healthcare Personnel

- The Charge Nurse will triage the patient immediately upon arrival and the patient will be registered at the most appropriate location.
- A Primary Nursing assessment will be completed and the attending Physician will be notified of the patient's arrival.
- During assessment by the Primary Nurse, [Psychiatric Emergency Service, PES](#) staff will begin their routine data collection process by interviewing the police, reviewing health records; attend to family/support members etc.
- EPT staff will interview the patient directly (where appropriate) on a priority basis, once the patient is in a private room/area. EPT staff will then speak with the doctor who will be given the chart.
- The doctor will promptly assess the patient following the EPT staff report, if they have not already done so.
- EPT staff, nursing staff, medical staff and security will all work collaboratively to expedite the transition of care within the 30-60 minute timeframe.

Joint Responsibilities between Hamilton Police Service and St. Joseph's Healthcare:

- Police, nursing staff, medical staff, and security will all work collaboratively to expedite the transition of care within 30-60 minutes.
- It is understood that medical emergencies will take priority over mental health emergencies in certain situations.
- Disputes arising from perceived breach of the policy, ethical issues, legal issues, Ministry policy changes impacting police/and or hospitals, funding changes, inter-agency conflicts or protocol adjustments will be resolved by individuals most immediately involved. If appropriate, any issues that occur beyond the front line will be referred to the most appropriate level in the organization for resolution.
- This protocol will be reviewed annually by a representative from both organizations.