

Protocol between Police and Arnprior Hospital
With respect to the Transportation of Mental Health Patients

The following document will form the basis of a protocol between police and the Arnprior Hospital with respect to the transportation of mental patients. Although the protocol has not yet been signed, all members are asked to follow these policies when dealing with violent and non-violent patients. If you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to my attention.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to establish protocols pertaining to:

- a) Police accompaniment of violent and non-violent persons who have been apprehended.
- b) Acceptance by the hospital of violent and non-violent patients.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Violent Patients

If a patient is violent when the police bring them in to the hospital, the officer will stay with the patient until they are sedated and restrained. Should the patient remain violent, and/or sedation is not effective, and immediate transport by ambulance to Ottawa is arranged, a police officer will, dictated by condition of patient and extenuating circumstances, either follow the ambulance in the cruiser or accompany the attendants in the ambulance. The police officer must remain until the hospital accepts the patient.

Non-Violent Patients

If a patient is non-violent, the triage nurse on duty in the emergency department will ensure the patient is seen as soon as possible by the attending physician. The police officer will remain until the attending physician assesses the requirement for police presence and accepts the patient.

Patient Has Not Exhibited Violent Behavior

On occasion, Form 1's are issued by family doctors on non-violent patients. In these cases the families will usually make their own arrangements to have the patient transported to Ottawa. The hospital acknowledges that this type of transport should never become a police responsibility.

The hospital acknowledges that Form 2 patients DO NOT have to be transported to Ottawa. A local physician can examine Form 2 patients. Once examined and accepted

by the attending physician, the police will be released from maintaining custody. (See violent and non-violent sections above.)

Only in the most unusual cases, and then only with the concurrence of the police shift supervisor, will a patient with mental health issues be transported to Ottawa by cruiser. There is no longer a provision in the Police Services Act making police responsible for the transportation of these patients.