



Policy Name:	GUARDING PRISONERS IN HOSPITAL		
Policy #:	OP 7.4	Last Updated:	2022-01-27
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RELATED POLICIES

OP 3.1 Arrest and Detention

OP 3.1.1 Handcuffing a Person

OP 3.3 Appearance Notices

OP 2.4 IIO Notification

OP 7.1 Booking and Fingerprinting Prisoners

OP 7.3 Transporting Prisoners

OP 7.5 Responsibility for Prisoners

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To ensure the safety of the public, the safety of Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members, and the safety of persons in custody.
- 1.2. To provide direction to Members guarding persons under arrest who require medical treatment in hospital.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all Members.

3. POLICY

3.1. Members who have custody of an arrested person (Prisoner) who is in medical distress, including any of the conditions listed below, must ensure the Prisoner is transported directly to a hospital emergency ward by BC Ambulance Service (BCAS):

- i. unconsciousness;
- ii. extreme intoxication by drug or alcohol to the degree that they are incapable of making a rational decision with respect to medical treatment;
- iii. possible fractures, dislocations, concussion, etc.;
- iv. cuts or lacerations requiring stitches; and
- v. suspected ingestion of anything that could cause them serious harm.

3.2. An SPS Member will guard a Prisoner who requires hospitalization, provided the Prisoner has not yet been remanded, committed, or sentenced to custody by a Court.

3.3. Prisoners under a Court ordered process, who are not the responsibility of SPS to guard in hospital, are:

- i. Federal Prisoner:
 - a. an adult or youth who is serving a current federal sentence of imprisonment, including an escapee and federal parole suspension or revocation; or
 - b. an adult or youth detained by a federal agency under authority of a federal statute (e.g., *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*); and
- ii. Provincial Prisoner:
 - a. an adult or youth who has appeared before a Justice of the Peace or a Judge and has been remanded into provincial custody pending further court appearance and/or transport to a correctional centre;
 - b. a remanded adult or youth Prisoner under escort by B.C. Sheriff Service, who is lodged in the Surrey Cell Block while in transit between court and a correctional centre; or
 - c. an adult or youth Prisoner who is serving an active provincial sentence of imprisonment, including an escapee, intermittent and provincial parole suspension or revocation.

4. PROCEDURE

Member's Responsibility

4.1. A Member who has arrested a person who is in medical distress as described in s. 3.1 above must:

- i. provide emergency medical assistance, if required, to the best of their ability in the circumstances;
- ii. as soon as practicable call for attendance of BCAS and provide personnel with all known information that may assist in the assessment and care of the person, and allow any recommended care to be performed; and

- iii. request a Supervisor to attend the scene (see OP 3.1 *Arrest and Detention*).
- 4.2. A Member who has arrested a person who requires transportation to hospital is responsible for guarding the Prisoner and must remain with the hospitalized Prisoner even if requested by a physician or nurse to leave the area. In these circumstances, Members must allow for doctor-patient privacy of conversation and privacy during medical treatment; however, Members must maintain visual continuity of the Prisoner, unless the Prisoner must undergo surgery or examination such as X-rays and CT scans. In such cases, Members must remain as close to the Patient as possible to allow safe and timely deliver of medical treatment. Members must contact a Supervisor if the matter cannot be resolved with hospital personnel.
- 4.3. A Prisoner in hospital must be restrained at all times, unless such restraint would interfere with the Prisoner's essential medical treatment (see OP 3.1.1 *Handcuffing a Person*).
- 4.4. If the Prisoner only requires brief hospitalization, the Prisoner may be guarded by the arresting Member.
- 4.5. If during medical treatment, it becomes apparent that the Prisoner requires medical treatment for an extended period of time, the guarding Member must notify their Supervisor of the expected time the Prisoner will be released by medical personnel.

Supervisor's Responsibility

- 4.6. A Supervisor who has been notified that a person detained, arrested or in the custody of a Member, is injured, in medical distress or for any other reason may require medical assessment or attention, must:
- i. notify the Duty Officer if the injury is the result of a "Reportable Injury" or "Critical Incident" and follow procedure in Policy OP 2.4 *IIO Notification*; and
 - ii. attend the scene and ensure that medical attention is provided and determine the cause of any injury.
- 4.7. If a frontline Supervisor is notified that a Prisoner will be admitted to hospital or require treatment for a duration longer than the Member's end of shift, the Supervisor must notify the Duty Officer who will arrange for another Member to provide hospital guard duty relief.
- 4.8. If a Member, in consultation with their Supervisor, is satisfied that the Prisoner does not pose a risk to public safety and court appearance is satisfied, the Prisoner may be released from custody and be required to attend court by way of:
- i. issuing a federal or provincial Appearance Notice;
 - ii. Issuing an Undertaking; or
 - iii. Request summons (see OP 3.3 *Appearance Notices*).

Surrey Cell Block Prisoner

4.9. If a Surrey Cell Block Prisoner requires admission to a hospital, the Surrey Cell Block NCO is responsible for:

- i. arranging transportation of the prisoner to hospital; and
- ii. consulting the Duty Officer to arrange for a Member to guard the Prisoner.

4.10. SPS is responsible for guarding a hospitalized Prisoner until either the Prisoner is released by Appearance Notice or Undertaking, or an Information is sworn, at which time the guarding and security of the Prisoner becomes the responsibility of Provincial Corrections.

4.11. If a Prisoner is released from hospital and is being transported to the Surrey Cell Block, the transporting Member must ensure that all hospital treatment instructions and medication directions are obtained from hospital staff and given to the Surrey Cell Block guard and the Surrey Cell Block Duty Sergeant is notified (see OP 7.1 *Booking and Fingerprinting of Prisoners*).

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“Duty Officer” means the Frontline Policing Inspector on duty.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“NCO” means a non-commissioned officer, which is a Sergeant or Staff Sergeant, or person acting in that capacity.

“Prisoner” means a person who is under arrest and in the custody of an SPS Member.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES