

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: May 30, 2010
Topic: 4. Operations Directives	Replaces: July 1, 2004
Subject: 47. Care and Transportation of Emotionally Disturbed Patients	
Policy No. G.4.47.	Page 1 of 3

PURPOSE

To provide paramedics with direction on care and transportation of emotionally disturbed patients.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

DEFINITIONS

- 1) Persons who cannot be transported against their will:
 - Means a person who is voluntarily seeking admission to a psychiatric facility.
- 2) The following persons can be transported against their will, subject to the provisions of the Mental Health Act:
 - the subject of an application for assessment by a physician under *subsection 15(1) of the Mental Health Act* (Form 1) or
 - the subject of an order for examination signed by a Justice of the Peace under *subsection 16(1) of the Mental Health Act* (Form 2) or,
 - detained in a psychiatric facility under a certificate of involuntary admission, (Form 3) or a Certificate of Renewal (Form 4)
 - remanded by a judge for admission to a psychiatric facility under *subsection 22(1) of the Mental Health Act* (Form 8) or,
 - Absent Without Leave and is subject of an order for return to a psychiatric facility under *subsection 28(1)(b) of the Mental Health Act* (Form 9).
- 3) Violent or potentially violent patient
 - Means patients whose behaviour/past history indicates the potential to harm themselves or others.

USE OF ESCORTS

- 1) Violent or Potentially Violent Patient
 - Police assistance will be requested prior to the ambulance transport of violent/potentially violent patients.
- 2) Patient in Custody/Court or Ontario Review Board Disposition
 - An escort (in addition to the paramedic) designated by the Justice of the Peace (JP) or hospital's officer in charge/delegate is required to maintain the custody of patients in custody or under Court or Ontario Review Board Disposition during transport.

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3) Other Emotionally Disturbed Patients

- In the transfer of all emotionally disturbed patients other than a potentially violent patient or a patient who is in custody/or under Court or Ontario Review Board Disposition, the physician will determine the need for and appropriate type of escort.

PROCEDURES

1) Persons who cannot be transported against their will:

- Generally special arrangements are not required for such unless the patient is violent and/or dangerous.

2) Violent or potentially violent patient (regardless of legal status under the Mental Health Act):

- Ask dispatch to request police assistance at the scene if this has not been done already.
- Delay transfer of a patient who appears to be a safety risk or who has the potential to become violent enroute until the police or the physician sufficiently restrain the patient.
- Do not attempt to restrain a patient unless assisting at the direct request of a physician, police officer or transporting an unescorted patient who becomes violent enroute

3) Patients who can be transported against their will:

- Do not depart the scene with a patient who can be transported against their will until such time as:
 - the appropriate documentation (refer to definitions under the *Mental Health Act*) has been signed by the physician and is in the possession of the paramedic, or
 - a police officer assumes custody of the patient and accompanies the patient enroute.

4) Patients in custody/under Court or Ontario Review Board Disposition:

- Do not depart the scene until an escort designated by the hospital's officer in charge/ delegate is available to accompany the patient in the ambulance.
- Although it is the responsibility of the escort to maintain custody of the patient, a paramedic may assist in restraining/detaining the patient.

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RESTRAINTS

Paramedics will not restrain patients unless they are assisting at the direct request of a physician, police officer or in the event that an unescorted patient becomes violent enroute.

- Do not attempt to restrain a patient except:
 - at the direct request of a physician or police officer; or
 - when an unescorted patient becomes violent enroute and poses a threat to the patient's own and/or the crew's safety.
- Should the paramedic be requested to assist in restraining a patient or restrain an unescorted patient who becomes violent enroute, the extent of the restraint will be determined by the reasonable and minimal use of force required to keep the patient under control, having regard to the physical and mental condition of the patient and the safety of others.
- Where restraints are applied prior to departing the scene, a hospital escort or police officer is required to accompany the patient in the ambulance.
- In all cases where the paramedic crew are involved in the restraint of a patient (escorted or an unescorted patient who becomes violent enroute), the paramedic crew will advise dispatch and document on the ACR:
 - reason for restraint;
 - person (physician/police officer or paramedic) ordering restraint;
 - method of restraint;
 - position of the patient during restraint;
 - consequence of restraint.

Note: Refer to the Basic Life Support and Patient Care Manual, Section 8-6, Restraint of Patients Standard and Section 8-9, The Violent, Aggressive or Agitated Patient for specific guidelines in relation to assessing, managing and restraining of patients and Personal and Patient Safety and Protection.

REFERENCE

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Emergency Health Services Branch, 2007, *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards*, Queens Printer for Ontario

Ministry of Health, Emergency Services Branch, *Documentation Standards*, The Crown in Right of the Province of Ontario