6.2 Hospitalisation of Inmates

Policy Summary

The Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN) in consultation with the Governor of a correctional centre must provide or arrange for the provision of all basic health care and medical services to inmates in NSW correctional centres.

The Governor, on the advice of JH&FMHN clinical staff, should arrange for an inmate requiring emergency assessment, medical or surgical treatment to be transferred to the nearest appropriate general public hospital immediately.

Management of Public Correctional Centres Service Specifications

Outcome	Decency and Respect Health Services Safety and Security Rehabilitation and Reintegration

DRAFT

Scope

This section applies to all correctional centres and other facilities administered by or on behalf of Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW).

It also applies to all CSNSW employees, and where relevant to other personnel such as Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, contractors, subcontractors, and visitors.

Related Documents

Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999

Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2014

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network: Policy 1.252 Access to Local Public Hospitals

Management of Public Correctional Centre Outcome Specifications

Mental Health Act 2007

Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990

Related Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures

13 Serious Incidents

9.5 Requests for Private Health Practitioners

19.6 Medical Escorts

22.4 Medical Records and Health Information

23 Release of Inmates

Definitions

AHNM	After Hours Nurse Manager
Authorised officer	The officer authorised by the Governor to perform the functions set out in this part of the Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures.
COPP	Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures
JH&FMHN	Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network
MOS	Manager of Security
NDNMS	Network Director of Nursing & Midwifery Services
NUM	Nursing Unit Manager

NIC	Nurse In Charge
SAS	Senior Assistant Superintendent

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1 Hospitalisation of Inmates

1.1 Emergency and Elective Admission

Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN) in consultation with the Governor of a correctional centre must provide or arrange for the provision of all basic health care and medical services for inmates in NSW correctional centres at no cost to the inmates.

All clinical services provided must be within the scope of JH&FMHN policies and procedures, its model of care and the qualifications of the healthcare providers. Accordingly, the Governor, on advice from JH&FMHN clinical staff, should arrange for an inmate requiring emergency assessment, medical or surgical treatment to be transferred to the nearest appropriate general public hospital immediately.

Any emergency referral decisions should be made by the responsible nurse when available on site or contacted by telephone, or the responsible custodial officer, when the nurse is not available on site or contactable on the telephone.

Elective admissions to the nearest public hospital may also be arranged, provided that:

- the required treatment is available through that hospital
- appropriate security arrangements with the local hospital have been made by the Governor **(see COPP section *9.5 Requests for Private Health Practitioners*)**
- approval has been sought from the Network Director of Nursing & Midwifery Services (NDNMS) (the NUM or NIC should discuss admission of female inmates with the NDNMS).

Any elective admissions for male inmates should be through the Long Bay Hospital Medical Appointment Unit to the Prince of Wales Hospital.

Female inmates may be directly transferred from the centre to the nearest public hospital, which will be arranged through the Governor or Manager Security (MOS) or Senior Assistant Superintendent (SAS).

In conjunction with this policy, the JH&FMHN policy 1.252 *Access to Local Public Hospitals* applies.

1.2 Mental Health Admission

Following a court appearance for diversion on an order under section 33 *Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990* inmates must be transferred to the nearest public mental health facility for a psychiatric assessment.

Direct transfer from the centre should be arranged by the Governor, MOS or SAS. This transfer is to be conducted by CSNSW or NSW Police Force. If this takes place during business hours the centre NUM must be informed. If it is outside business hours the After Hours Nurse Manager (AHNM) must be informed of the transfer.

Inmates requiring ongoing mental health care on release with a Schedule 1 certificate under the *Mental Health Act 2007*, must be transferred to the nearest public mental health facility for psychiatric assessment.

Staff of the receiving facility must be notified of the pending transfer by JH&FMHN clinicians. JH&FMHN clinicians will arrange for transfer of the inmate with NSW Ambulance **(see COPP section *23 Release of Inmates*)**.

1.3 Procedure for Notification of Emergency Contact Person

	Procedure	Responsibility
1.	Contact inmate's emergency contact person as soon as possible and on the same day that it is confirmed that an inmate is: • admitted as an in-patient (remaining overnight in the hospital) with little or no advance warning (such as with a heart attack, appendicitis, serious assault) • their medical condition becomes life threatening	Governor/ Authorised officer
2.	Inform emergency contact if the date the inmate was originally scheduled to return to the correctional centre is changed	Governor/ Authorised officer
3.	Ensure that a staff member checks whether the inmate has any visits book for the day that the inmate is taken to hospital for medical treatment or a medical appointment. If a visit has been booked, the visitors must be advised that the inmate will not be available due to attendance to a medical appointment. If the visitor is the next-of-kin or emergency contact person, they may be told about the inmate's medical condition, otherwise the inmate's permission must be granted before any information is disclosed. If a visit has not been booked, no further action is required regarding notification of visitors (**see COPP section 19.6 *Medical Escorts* for details on visits to inmate patients**).	Governor/ Authorised officer

1.4 Procedure for Notification of Consulate or Embassy

	Procedure	Responsibility
1.	Gain the consent of the hospitalised inmate to contact their consulate or embassy if they are a foreign national, and conscious	Governor/ Authorised officer
2.	Inform the relevant consulate or embassy as soon as practicable if a foreign national is hospitalised while in CSNSW custody **(refer to COPP section 13.2 *Medical Emergencies*)**.	Governor/ Authorised officer

2 Document Information

Business Centre:	Custodial Operations
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1.0		Initial publication *(Replaces section 7.3.7 of the superseded Operations Procedures Manual)*