

DATE:	SEPTEMBER 14, 2018
NUMBER:	J.7
SUBJECT:	EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF MENTALLY DISORDERED INMATES
RELATED SECTIONS:	M.9 , M.5 , M.6 , J.1 , M.25 , MSD.M.10

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for an inmate needing transportation to access mental health care meeting 4011.6 P.C., 5150 W&I, 5250 W&I, 5356 W&I, 5300 W&I, and 5256 W&I criteria.

POLICY

All inmates shall be provided with adequate and timely transportation services to meet their health needs.

PROCEDURE

I. IDENTIFICATION OF MENTALLY DISORDERED INMATES

- A. If an inmate appears to be a danger to himself/herself or others, or if he/she appears gravely mentally disabled, the inmate shall be removed from the mainline population.

“Gravely mentally disabled” shall refer to any inmate who does not appear able to appropriately utilize the food, clothing and/or shelter provided by the detention facility.

- B. The inmate shall be immediately evaluated by a physician. If a physician is not readily available, the inmate shall be evaluated by a physician at the next sick call, or within 24 hours, whichever is earlier.

- II. Any inmate who is believed to be a danger to himself/herself or a danger to others, shall be immediately evaluated by a Qualified Mental Health Provider (QMHP) (psychiatrist, psychologist, Mental Health Clinician, or psychiatric nurse practitioner). If a QMHP is not available, the inmate will be placed into EOH (safety cell only if actively self harming or actively assaultive) until cleared by a QMHP.

- A. Detention facilities without mental health services shall transport the inmate to a 24 hour detention facility where a QMHP is available to assess the inmate or to be placed into EOH pending a review by QMHP. If both a QMHP and EOH are unavailable, the detention facility will transport the inmate offsite to San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH), or Emergency Psychiatric Unit (EPU) for an evaluation.
- B. Medical Services staff shall complete the Offsite Emergency Mental Evaluation (J-211) form.

In the absence of medical staff at the detention facility, the Watch Commander or designee shall complete the form.

1. Complete this form by filling in the inmate/patient name, booking number. Write a brief statement describing the inmate's behavior that indicates the need for an emergency psychiatric evaluation. Include nursing assessment and history if pertinent. The watch commander or designee filling out this form should ensure their signature is legible.
 2. Prior to transporting the inmate/patient, the nursing staff shall notify EPU by telephone of the impending referral, documenting in the medical record the name of the EPU staff person to whom they spoke regarding the referral.
 3. Two copies of the J-211 form shall be made. Place one copy, along with copies of pertinent health notes and medication records into a Confidential Transfer J-232C envelope and give it to the transporting deputy. Place the other copy into the inmate's custody record.
- C. The watch commander shall be notified by medical and/or sworn staff of any pending transfer.
- D. The watch commander or his designee shall notify the booking staff to prepare all custody record material to be taken by the transporting deputy.
- E. On return from EPU, the transporting deputy will return the paperwork from EPU to the appropriate receiving facility's medical staff for their review and implementation of the EPU psychiatrist's orders.

III. RELEASED INMATES

- A. All inmates to be released from custody to include any inmate housed in a psychiatric stabilization unit (PSU/WPSU) or inmate safety program (ISP) is to be released from custody, the inmate may require transportation to San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital/Emergency Psychiatric Unit (EPU) [REDACTED]
1. If the inmate is in ISP or if the inmate is voluntarily admitted to PSU/WPSU and requires further mental health evaluation and/or treatment on release, a Request for 72 Hour Detention (MH-302 form) needs to be completed. Inmates pending release that are evaluated by a Psychologist or Psychiatrist and are recommended for further treatment at EPU, no NetRMS incident report is required by sworn staff. However, in the absence of a Psychologist or Psychiatrist; a NetRMS incident report shall be completed by sworn staff prior to transfer to EP [REDACTED]
 2. If the inmate is voluntarily admitted to PSU/WPSU or is in ISP and does not require further mental health evaluation and/or immediate treatment, he/she is released with medication and a list of resources with which to continue mental health care.

3. If the inmate is involuntarily admitted to PSU/WPSU under legal hold (5150 W&I, 5250 W&I, 5356 W&I, 5300 W&I, or 5236 W&I), he/she is transported to EPU with the original current legal hold documents, copies of his/her most recent progress notes, and medication record in a sealed envelope.
4. Prior to the inmate being transported, the medical services staff shall notify SDCPH/EPU of the referral and give a verbal report.
5. The transporting deputy will transport the inmate to EPU, delivering the inmate and required documents to the psychiatrist before leaving. The deputy will remain with the released inmate, until a safe and orderly transfer of services is completed and the psychiatrist on duty releases the deputy from further standby duties.
6. The SDCPH/EPU psychiatrist shall determine if the inmate meets the criteria for admission to EPU or may be released to the street.