

<b>DATE:</b>	AUGUST 21, 2018
<b>NUMBER:</b>	M.5
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
<b>RELATED SECTIONS:</b>	<a href="#">I.45</a> , <a href="#">M.6</a> , <a href="#">MSD M.1</a> , SDSA 3.16

**PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for response to medical emergencies.

**POLICY**

All facility staff shall be responsible for taking appropriate action in recognizing, reporting or responding to an inmate's emergency medical needs. In any situation requiring medical response, emergency medical care shall be provided with efficiency and speed without compromising security.

If the inmate's condition is believed to be life threatening, sworn staff shall immediately notify on duty medical personnel and provide basic life support (BLS) and/or first aid care.

An inmate may not refuse to be transported to an emergency department (ED) if deemed necessary by medical personnel and/or sworn staff. Refusal of treatment against medical advice (AMA) must take place at the emergency department.

Inmates identified as being a victim of sexual assault while incarcerated will receive timely access to emergency medical and crisis intervention services at no cost to the inmate/patient.




**PROCEDURE**

**I. INMATE OCCURRENCE**

- A. If the inmate is in a housing unit, proper security measures shall be taken prior to entry by the medical staff and/or responding deputies, i.e. locking down inmates, sufficient number of security staff standing by, etc.
- B. When the severity of the medical emergency requires it, and as soon as it is safe to do so (unless death is obvious, such as decapitation, obvious rigor mortis, etc.), deputies acting as first responders, will provide basic life support and first aid. Upon arrival, facility medical staff will assess the severity of the patient's injury/distress, provide first aid, and may assist or take over CPR responsibilities as directed and/or needed.
- C. When possible, the deputy shall give the inmate's name, booking number and observable symptoms when notifying medical staff of a medical emergency.
- D. After responding to the scene of a medical emergency, the medical staff may request the inmate be transported to the dispensary if it would not breach security. Sworn staff will provide security during transport to the dispensary.

- E. Any sworn staff, medical doctor, registered nurse, or licensed vocational nurse shall have the authority to call 911 or other medical transportation for any medical condition they deem necessary.

## II. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Medical staff shall complete the required documentation for medical transportation of inmates to the ED, medical sick call in another facility or other locations as recommended by medical personnel (e.g., San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital, Emergency Psychiatric Unit, etc.).
- B. Inmates with minor injuries, who require medical intervention at an ED, may be transported via department vehicle if the inmate does not require medical observation during transport.
- C. Inmates in need of medical attention or monitoring, who are housed in a detention facility that does not have 24-hour nursing services, may be transported via department vehicle to a detention facility where 24-hour nursing services are available. Sworn staff must first consult with the receiving facility's medical personnel to obtain authorization or further direction.
- D.   
  

- E. If the inmate is to be admitted as an inpatient to the hospital, the deputy shall notify the watch commander, who shall in turn notify the medical staff (refer to DSB P&P section I.45 for inmate hospitalization procedures). In the event the inmate is admitted to a non-contracted hospital, medical services will facilitate transfer to the contracted hospital when the inmate's condition is rendered stable by the treating physician.
- F. If the inmate is admitted, medical staff shall notify the medical administration and the medical services supervising case manager.
- G. At booking facilities, when the inmate has not returned to the facility by the end of the shift, the charge nurse shall contact the hospital to determine if the inmate was or shall be admitted and relay information to the appropriate medical staff.
- H. When an inmate is admitted to a hospital for treatment of a serious illness or injury, the watch commander shall:
  - 1. Obtain the name, relation, address and phone number of the emergency contact person from the detention facility booking and property record.

2. Determine, if possible, whether or not the inmate wishes the emergency contact person be notified of his/her illness or injury.
  3. If desired by the inmate, notify the emergency contact person of the inmate's illness or injury.
  4. In situations where the wishes of the inmate cannot be determined due to the severity of the illness or injury, contact shall be made.
- I. If the inmate's death is imminent or likely, the watch commander or his/her designee shall notify the Communication Center (CC) watch commander and request that the CC notify the on-call homicide team supervisor to contact the facility. The homicide team supervisor will be given a brief on the incident and extent of injuries to the inmate. The homicide supervisor will determine if a response is warranted or waive at that time.
  - J. All inmates transported for medical evaluation to an ED must stay until a medical decision is made regarding their care and treatment, unless they refuse treatment. In these instances, ED personnel will require the inmate to sign forms noting that they are refusing treatment and leaving AMA.
  - K. If the inmate returns to the facility from the ED, a copy of the Discharge Summary (J-232B form) indicating treatment provided and treatment recommendations shall accompany the inmate.
  - L. The transporting deputy shall notify the intake/screening nurse or charge/desk nurse when the inmate has returned to the facility. The nurse shall do an assessment and determine the appropriate medical classification for the inmate. If there is a physician in the facility, he/she shall be notified.

### III. NON-INMATE OCCURRENCE

- A. Medical staff may only provide first aid care or BLS to persons other than inmates.
- B. Upon notification, medical staff shall respond to all medical emergencies occurring within the facility, to include areas accessed by the public within the facility.
- C. Sworn and professional personnel have the authority to call 911 or other medical transportation for medical situations they deem necessary.
- D. Employees experiencing an occupational injury or illness shall report it to their immediate supervisor (refer to Department P&P Section 3.16 for further procedures).
- E. Visitors not requiring 911 interventions shall be referred to their private physician.
- F. Medical staff shall give a verbal report to the on-duty watch commander and facility supervising nurse summarizing the incident and actions rendered, followed with a notation in the end of shift report.