

DATE:	MAY 27, 2022
NUMBER:	M.32
SUBJECT:	USE OF MEDICAL GURNEY
RELATED SECTIONS:	I.89 ; I.93 ; I.96 ; M.5 ; M.6 ; M.38 ; Addendum F

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the use of a medical gurney in the detentions setting.

POLICY

A medical gurney or stretcher (gurney) is primarily used for the securing and/or transport of incarcerated person for medical purposes. Not all medical incidents will require the use of the gurney. Sworn staff should consider other options (i.e., wheelchair, request health staff to the scene, etc.) and make the best determination for securing and/or transporting an incarcerated person.

On occasion, the gurney may be used for non-medical reasons to facilitate an incarcerated person's movement due to their behavior or uncooperative nature. Incarcerated person shall, as soon as practical, be transitioned to an upright seated position or on their side in the recovery position. Placing an incarcerated person in the prone position on a gurney may be done for only the minimal time necessary to effectively gain physical control and, if not yet completed, secure them in handcuffs/waist chains or a maximum restraint device (e.g., The WRAP Restraint System, Cord Cuff Restraints). Prolonged retention or transporting of an incarcerated person on a gurney in the prone position is prohibited unless deemed clinically necessary by health staff.

PROCEDURE

I. MEDICAL USE

- A. The primary purpose of the gurney is to transport an incarcerated person for immediate care after a medical-related incident (e.g., injury, medical condition).
- B. Incarcerated persons may be placed on a gurney to assist health staff in obtaining a proper medical assessment during the intake process in compliance with Detention Services Bureau Policies and Procedures (DSB P&P) section I.96.
- C. Attending health staff shall determine the appropriate positioning for transport of the incarcerated person.

II. NON-MEDICAL USE

- A. Sworn staff placing an incarcerated person on a gurney for any non-medical reason shall:
 1. Secure the incarcerated person's hands with handcuffs or waist chains.

2. As soon as practical, transition the incarcerated person to an upright seated position or on their side in the recovery position.
 3. Securely fasten the incarcerated person to the gurney using the gurney straps and adjust the straps so they are snug without impairing circulation.
- B. The incarcerated person may be placed into the prone position on a gurney for only the minimal time necessary to gain control and, if necessary, secure them in handcuffs/waist chains or a maximum restraint device.
- C. If the incarcerated person becomes physically assaultive towards staff and continued retention on the gurney could jeopardize the safety of the incarcerated person or staff. Escalation to a maximum restraint device should be utilized in compliance with DSB P&P I.93.
- D. The use of the gurney involving force (i.e., forced blood draw, livescan of uncooperative incarcerated person), or subsequent to an application of force, shall require prior approval of the watch commander.

III. SAFETY DEPUTY

- A. Sworn staff should remain cognizant while the incarcerated person is on a gurney, particularly while in the prone position, of impacts to the incarcerated person's breathing, including the compromise that occurs with the use of pressure or weight bearing on the incarcerated person's back, chest, lungs, diaphragm, and stomach.
- B. Anytime an incarcerated person is placed on a gurney by sworn staff, one deputy shall be designated as the "safety deputy."
1. The safety deputy's sole responsibility is to continually monitor the health and safety of the incarcerated person for signs of distress (e.g., compromised breathing, changes in level of consciousness).
 2. If at any time, the safety deputy or health staff determines the incarcerated person may be in physical and or medical distress, they shall immediately take necessary precautions to ensure the well-being and safety of the incarcerated person including:
 - a. Seeking and or providing immediate medical care in accordance with DSB P&P M.5 and DSB P&P M.6.
 - b. Rolling the incarcerated person onto their side in a recovery position.
 - c. Monitoring the incarcerated person's breathing.
 - d. Checking for the incarcerated person's pulse.

- e. Removing the handcuffs or waist chains and rolling the incarcerated person onto their back if cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or rescue breathing is required.
 - f. Monitoring for changes in skin color. A bluish color around the mouth, on the inside of the lips, or on the fingernails may occur when the incarcerated person is not getting enough oxygen. The color of the skin may also appear pale or gray.
3. The safety deputy shall be identified in the applicable report documenting the use of the gurney in compliance with section V of this policy.

IV. PREGNANT INCARCERATED PERSONS

- A. An incarcerated person known to be pregnant shall not be restrained using leg or waist chains. A pregnant incarcerated person needing to be restrained shall only be handcuffed in compliance with DSB P&P M.38.
- B. Pregnant incarcerated persons shall not be placed in a prone position on a gurney.

V. DOCUMENTATION

- A. Securing an incarcerated person to a gurney related to a use of force incident shall be included in the NetRMS report according to established department use of force guidelines, including but not limited to those found in Department P&P Addendum F and DSB P&P I.89.
 - 1. The following information will be included in all use of force incidents where a gurney is used.
 - a. Justification for placing the individual on the gurney
 - b. What position(s) the individual was placed in (i.e. recovery or seated)
 - c. Length of time spent in each position
 - d. Who the safety officer was?
 - e. If kept in the prone position, what attempts were made to place the individual in the recovery or seated position
- B. The use of the gurney not related to a use of force incident shall be included in the associated Jail Information Management System incident report for which the gurney was required (i.e., safety cell, sobering cell, "person down" incident, etc.).