

1. How to Interact with Patients:

- a. To be aware of the in-custody patient's rights within the scope of their being in custody within the hospital environment.
- b. In-custody patients may be handcuffed at the discretion of the arresting agency or upon request by clinical staff. However, the forensic staff should be aware that the policy of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center is to discourage the practice whenever possible unless, in the opinion of the arresting agency, the removal of the handcuffs would increase the risk of the in-custody person's escape or potential threat to others.
- c. In-custody patients shall not be placed in restraints by Law Enforcement for police custody purposes or in-lieu of handcuffs.
- d. Under no circumstances shall a handcuffed in-custody patient be left unattended by the arresting police agency or Law Enforcement personnel.
- e. Under no circumstances shall the arresting agency forensic staff obtain or read the in-custody patients health records chart or obtain copies of the health record's contents.
- f. *Universal Precautions* must be followed when in contact with any patient.
 1. Wash hands after any direct contact with a patient and/or body fluids.
 2. Wear gloves when in contact with blood or body fluids if possible.
 3. Wear outer garment protection such as a gown to avoid accidental splattering of body fluids from patient.
 4. Wear a surgical mask when the situation warrants the need.

2. When Responding to Unusual Clinical Events and Incidents, Forensic Staff Members should:

- a. Notify a unit staff member immediately if the in-custody patient has a medical emergency.
- b. Know whom the staff nurse and unit personnel are.
- c. Know where the nurse's emergency call button is located.
- d. Know where the caregiver's station is located.
- e. Inform unit staff of any special needs the in-custody patient might have.

- f. Become familiar with precautions related to the patient's diagnosis (without reading the medical records chart) and ask the unit medical staff if there is anything you must be aware of or concerned about.

3. Forensic Staff Member Should be Aware of and Know the Channels of Communication for:
Clinical

- Staff Nurse is responsible for direct patient care.
- Charge Nurse is responsible for the unit or area the patient is located.
- Nurse Manager/Clinical Nursing Director is responsible for specific units and/or clinical services supervised by the Nurse Manager.
- Administrative Nursing Supervisor is responsible for the hospital after business hours.

Security

- The Sheriff's Department Personnel is responsible for Law enforcement and contract security operations of the facility.
- Contract Security Officers have responsibility for screening entrances to the facility.
- Sheriff's Department personnel are responsible for line functions.
- Sheriff's Command Personnel are responsible for supervising and assigning line functions.
- Sheriff's Command Personnel are responsible for the over-all shift operations.
- Sheriff's Command Personnel is responsible for over-all bureau station operations.

Administration

- If there is a need to contact an administrator for an in-custody patient related issue, the Sheriff's Command Personnel is designated as the liaison between the hospital and law enforcement agencies.

4. The Sheriff's Command Personnel Is To Ensure Any And All Police Officers, Agents, Or Security Personnel From Outside Agencies, Who Are Assigned To Guard In-Custody Patients, Are Trained And Oriented On These Issues On Each Shift, And:

- a. The Sheriff's Command Personnel must ensure any new replacement is also trained and oriented on these issues.

- b. The Police Officers, agents, or security personnel shall be given an ORIENTATION FACT SHEET FOR POLICE OFFICERS.
- c. The Sheriff's Command Personnel and Security staff will ensure that forensic staff read, understand and signed the fact sheet. It should be used as reference for fire safety, universal precautions, and to identify the different emergency codes used on the rehabilitation center's overhead paging system.
- d. Fire procedures and evacuation routes must be discussed and shown to them.
- e. The Sheriff's Personnel and Security staff must log and document the in-custody patient/witnesses name and patient identification number (PIN), ward, date, time, law enforcement agency, officer's name and ID number in the ward ledger provided for that purpose.
- f. Sheriff's Personnel must be prepared to assist with any patient related questions or issues the outside agency's officer might have.

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