

**HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**  
**Administrative Policy and Procedure**

**SECTION: ADMINISTRATION**

**Number: AD83**

**Number of Pages: 1 of 2**

**Issue Date: June 1996**

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**TITLE: PRISONER/PATIENTS**

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**POLICY:**

It is the policy of Hackettstown Community Hospital to maintain patient, employee, and visitor safety in the presence of hospitalized prisoner patients. Prisoner patients must follow established prisoner visitation rules and room assignment procedures. Metal handcuffs that are required by law for patients who are under guard are the responsibility of the officers guarding the patient. Metal handcuffs are exempt from the Restraint/Seclusion Policy.

**PRISONER/PATIENT ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:**

Whenever possible, private rooms will be used to accommodate adult and/or minor prisoner patients. Factors such as patient unit, census, patient acuity, patient diagnosis and isolation requirements are considered when making prisoner patient room assignments. Privacy rights of both patients in semi-private rooms will be protected.

**PATIENT CARE:**

Prisoner patients will receive the same level of care as provided other patients at Hackettstown Community Hospital.

Discharge planning is provided as needed. Continuing care is planned with those responsible for follow-up care.

**VISITING:**

The assigned officer is responsible for monitoring and controlling visitors of prisoner patients per correctional institute's policies. The police, county sheriff or department of corrections retains the right to limit or deny visitation to custody patients.

In the event of a hospital or community emergency, restriction of visitors may be imposed by the hospital.

**DISCHARGE:**

The law enforcement officer shall accompany and be responsible for the prisoner patient upon his/her discharge and/or release.

## **AD83 – PRISONER/PATIENTS**

**Page 2 of 2**

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### **WEAPONS:**

Inpatients and outpatients -- Officers guarding inpatients or patients in the outpatient settings will be allowed to carry the weapons they are licensed to carry in the correctional institution environment.

### **OFFICER ORIENTATION:**

The Director of Nursing/Administrative Coordinator will give the law enforcement officers a packet of information to review that contains the pertinent policies and procedures of Hackettstown Community Hospital. Copies of the policies and procedures will also be provided to the Sheriff's Department for their orientation of officers assigned to guard prisoner patients. Pertinent policies and procedures include but are not limited to:

- Fire and Safety
- Emergency Communication Policy

Hackettstown Community Hospital staff will answer questions and provide clarification of hospital policies. Hospital staff will advise officers if prisoner patient's illness requires isolation.

Unresolved problems regarding the management of prisoner patients will be reported to the supervisor of the hospital's Security Department.