

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 530

Supercedes: 2-92 72.5.6

Effective: January 17, 2003

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Dated: April 27, 1992

TREATMENT OF SICK/INJURED DETAINEES

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the provision of necessary medical and health care services to detainees.

- II. **POLICY:** When members of the Upper Merion Township Police Department take custody or control over a person, either as a result of arrest or for some other reason, that person's well being becomes the department's responsibility. This department will endeavor to ensure the well being of persons in its custody or control by providing access to necessary medical or other health care treatment.

- III. **CROSS-REF:** Policy #510, DETENTION AREA SECURITY
Policy #500, PRISONER TRANSPORT AND RESTRAINT

- IV. **RESPONSIBILITIES:**
 - A. ARRESTING OR CUSTODIAL OFFICERS:
 - 1. Attempt to determine if the detainee is sick, injured, or in a physical or mental condition detrimental to the detainee's well being. This applies to all detainees, whether housed by this department or for another agency.
 - 2. Complete the Detainee Evaluation Form. Report any abnormal conditions immediately to the shift supervisor.
 - 3. Document in the original report any treatment, additional monitoring or other actions taken.

B. **SHIFT SUPERVISOR:**

1. Investigate any abnormal condition of any detainee. If the detainee is sick or injured, or complains of sickness or injury, arrange for necessary and timely medical evaluation.
2. If the detainee exhibits behavior that could be detrimental to his/her well being provide close, possibly constant monitoring until the behavior subsides. Unruly prisoners may be secured with handcuffs, leg restraints, and or/waist restraint belt in the cell if necessary to prevent injury to themselves or damage to the facility.
 - a. Use of restraints on a detainee in a cell must be at the direction of the shift supervisor. Such use of restraints shall be documented in the arresting/housing officer's original report and on the cell sheet.
 - b. In extreme circumstances the detainee may be secured to the bars of the cell until other measures can be taken.
 - c. "Hog tying" is prohibited. This refers to the practice of pulling the detainee's legs behind his/her back and securing them to their wrist restraints. This technique has been connected to a potentially fatal condition called positional asphyxiation, therefore, the use of this technique is prohibited.
3. Provide for sufficient security during transportation to, and at the treatment facility or location. If arrested, a bedside arraignment may be required.
4. Request security assistance at the treatment facility from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department if the detainee has been arraigned. Montgomery County Juvenile Probation or Children Youth Services may be able to provide some custodial assistance if the detainee is a juvenile.
5. Ensure that a complete original report is submitted including any bills or invoices resulting from any medical services needed by the detainee.
6. Review and approve Detainee Evaluation Forms.

C. Upper Merion Township will not assume financial responsibility resulting from medical evaluation and/or treatment of a detainee.

V. **PROCEDURES:**

A. **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROCEDURE:**

1. If any department member feels medical attention is necessary for a detainee, the member shall notify the shift supervisor who shall determine if the detainee shall be transported to a medical facility or other appropriate course of action.

2. If transport is necessary, an ambulance should be utilized. The transport of a detainee to a medical or other health care facility shall be done in accordance with the provisions of Policy #500, PRISONER TRANSPORT AND RESTRAINT.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Communications Center to monitor detainees in the cells and to notify the shift supervisor when a detainee requests or appears to be in need of medical care.
4. The detainee shall be searched and secured before being turned over to emergency personnel, or before being transported to a treatment facility.
5. Medical treatment required of a detainee while in the custody and control of the department shall be documented on the original police report.

B. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT:

1. There shall be an available first aid kit maintained in the Detention Area. This kit will be equipped with medical supplies which may be used to the extent of the first aid training held by department personnel.
2. An AED shall be maintained in the Communications Center and is available for use in medical emergencies in the Detention Area.
3. Treatment for an injury or complaint will be given to the detainee by trained medical personnel. Department members should not render treatment for injuries above and beyond their basic first aid training.
4. It shall be the responsibility of any department member that uses first aid equipment to ensure that it is replaced.
5. This equipment shall be inspected weekly by the shift supervisor as part of the Detention Area check, and the results noted on the Sergeant's Daily Report.

C. DETAINEE SCREENING:

1. The purpose of the screening is to determine whether a detainee requires medical or mental health attention. This screening shall be performed by the arresting or custodial officer. The information obtained shall be recorded on the Detainee Evaluation Form, which shall be kept in the detainee's property bin in the Detention Area until his/her release. The form shall include personal identification information, arrest information and information on:
 - a. Current stated health of the detainee.
 - b. Medications currently being taken by the detainee.
 - c. Behavior, including state of consciousness and mental status.

- d. Body deformities, trauma markings, bruises, lesions, jaundice, ability to move about.

D. POSTED ACCESS TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE:

- 1. Procedures for gaining access to medical services shall be posted in areas used by detainees, in English and Spanish.
- 2. Access procedures shall be explained orally to detainees who are unable to read. Signs shall be permanently mounted and legible.

E. DISPENSING PHARMACEUTICALS

- 1. No department member shall dispense any over the counter medication to a detainee at any time. Prescription medications shall not be dispensed to detainees without prior consultation with competent medical authority.

APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

TO BE REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

DISTRIBUTION: All police officers
All police dispatchers
Township Manager
Police Physician
File