

## Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan

### Subject: Medical Emergency

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-09(E)

Revised:

Authorized: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

### POLICY

The Erie County Jail shall provide 24-hour emergency medical, dental, and mental health care services. All corrections officers are trained to respond to medical emergencies, and will promptly implement emergency medical procedures for inmates who are in need of emergency medical attention.

### PROCEDURE

#### A. Policy

1. Any Corrections Officer or member of the Medical Staff who is available will respond when a Medical Emergency is reported and initiate care.

#### B. Definitions:

1. The following occurrence define an emergency, which may result from, but not limited to, injury from attempted suicide or injury from assault.
  - a. **Sever Bleeding:**
    - i. Apply clean/sterile pressure dressing to wound, apply pressure by use of hands. Monitor for signs and symptoms of shock. Follow American Red Cross Heartsaver Guidelines.
  - b. **Unconsciousness:**
    - i. Maintain body alignment, observe vital signs, respiration, etc., for any change until the doctor or emergency squad arrives. Monitor for deteriorating status. Follow American Red Cross Heartsaver Guidelines.
  - c. **Serious Breathing Difficulties:**
    - i. Keep in a semi-sitting position. Loosen or remove all tight clothing, observe and reassure. Monitor for deteriorating status. Follow American Red Cross Heartsaver Guidelines.
  - d. **Head, Neck, and/or Spinal Injury:**
    - i. Keep inmate quiet. Stop any bleeding, maintain neck alignment, observe and reassure. Monitor for deteriorating status. Follow American Red Cross Heartsaver Guidelines.
  - e. **Severe Burns:**
    - i. Do not remove clothing. Apply clean wet dressing to area. Prevent chilling, observe and reassure. Monitor for deteriorating status. Follow American Red Cross Heartsaver Guidelines.
  - f. **Seizures:**
    - i. Loosen all restrictive clothing. Assure adequate clearance from all furniture and other objects which may be injurious. Monitor for deteriorating status. Follow American Red Cross Heartsaver Guidelines.

## **Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan**

### **Subject: Medical Emergency (Continued)**

**Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-09(E)**

**Revised:**

#### **C. Response:**

1. The Corrections Officer who encounters a Medical Emergency shall:
  - a. Notify Main Control and the Shift Supervisor of the location and nature of the emergency.
  - b. Maintain security in the area.
    - i. Noninvolved inmates will be ordered to their assigned cells
    - ii. If at any time the officer suspects the inmate may be feigning or has any suspicion about the authenticity of the emergency, the officer should wait for back up to arrive before responding with first aid assistance.
  - c. Administer first-aid as needed.
2. The Shift Supervisor shall:
  - a. Notify the Nurse, if one is on duty at that time, and request they proceed to the location of the emergency, where they will take medical leadership of the situation.
  - b. Proceed to the location of the emergency.
  - c. Ensure that the area is secure and assess the situation.
  - d. Assist in administering first aid, if necessary.
  - e. Direct an officer to retrieve the AED unit and/or the Emergency Response Kit, if necessary.
    - i. If the AED is used, it will be placed out of service for date collection.

#### **D. Further Treatment:**

1. If it is determined that the emergency requires treatment unavailable at the Erie County Jail, dispatch will be contacted to request a squad from Perkins Township Fire Department transport the inmate to Firelands Regional Medical Center.
  - a. The Shift Supervisor will then:
    - i. Assign a Corrections Officer to meet the squad in the Garage Sally Port and escort them to the location of the emergency.
    - ii. Notify the Jail Administrator or designee of the emergency.

#### **E. Transportation to Hospital:**

1. If an inmate is to be transported to the hospital and remain in custody of the Erie County Jail, the shift supervisor will:
  - a. Assign a Corrections Officer to accompany the squad to the hospital. The duties of this officer are;
    - i. To supervise the inmate being transported to the hospital.
    - ii. Secure the inmate with restraints.
    - iii. Adjust restraints as needed for medical reasons.
    - iv. Assist EMT personnel with control and security of the inmate.
    - v. Ensure all pertinent information (Booking Form) accompanies the inmate to the hospital.

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- vi. Keep observation of the inmate until relieved by a Deputy Sheriff of the Erie County Sheriff's Office.
  - a. If relieved prior to the squad leaving the hospital, the officer will be returned the jail with the squad.
  - b. The shift supervisor will be notified if a Deputy does not arrive.

**F. Reporting:**

- 1. All corrections officers involved are required to submit a detailed written report of the incident as soon as possible. The Shift Supervisor will place an HOSP (Hospital) Event, attaching the inmate, in the Shift Log of the Jail's Record Management System.

**G. Return from Hospital:**

- 1. Upon return to the jail from the hospital, a corrections officer will:
  - a. Determine if special observation housing is required.
  - b. Change the inmate into a new jail uniform
    - i. This will be done in accordance with the Searches of Inmate Who Have Left the Security Perimeter Policy.
  - c. Place all pertinent medical paperwork into the Nurse's Box in Main Control.
    - i. It is the Nurse's responsibility for follow-up treatment.

**H. Crisis Intervention:**

- a. A Medical Emergency can be mentally taxing and difficult for those involved. Any staff member requesting mental health assistance will be referred to a qualified mental health professional by the Sheriff, Jail Administrator, or designee.