

Section 2: Reception and Release
Subject: Medical Pre-Screen
Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-09(B)
Revised: 07/2009, 12/2011, 09/2014, 09/2015

Authorized: _____ **Effective date:** _____
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

POLICY

It is the policy of the Erie County Sheriff that before acceptance into the Erie County Jail, a health trained personnel shall inquire, but not limited to the following conditions and the health authority shall develop policies for the acceptance or denial of admission for;

1. Suicide Thoughts/Plan
2. Current serious or potentially serious medical or mental health issues needing immediate attention
3. The use of Taser, Pepper Spray, or other less lethal use of force during arrest

The Medical Pre-Screen Form questions are to be asked by health-trained personnel assigned to perform duties in the jail. The Medical Pre-Screen Form questions are to be answered by the individual presenting the arrested person for incarceration. No arrested person will be admitted to the jail that is in an unconscious state. Any evidence of illness or injury will be given prompt attention by medical personnel prior to the acceptance of custody. Any time an arrestee is denied due to medical circumstances, documentation of medical clearance form a local hospital or urgent care to be incarcerated shall be provided. When force is used, vitals should be checked and inmates are decontaminated, when accepted. Trainers deemed as qualified by the agency may provide instruction to all jail staff members in first responder aid, CPR/AED, blood and air borne pathogens, diabetes and communicable disease. This training will include the use of the Medical Pre-Screen and signs that may indicate physical or mental distress. Prior to implementation, this policy will be submitted for review and approval by the jail physician, who shall note his approval in writing at the end of this policy, in accordance with Section 5120:1-8-09 of the Standard for Jails in Ohio (SJO).

PROCEDURE

Medical Pre-Screen Evaluation: Prior to accepting custody of an arrestee for jail incarceration, the admitting Employee will ascertain if the prisoner is/was, or is/was not:

1. Conscious, or ever lost consciousness, during the prisoner's arrest; and
2. Experiencing any severe physical disorders, or requesting medical attention; and
3. Displaying signs of severe mental disorder, or has made suicidal statements; and
4. Subjected to the effects of a Taser; OC or pepper spray; any other chemical agents; or any use of physical force during the arrest process; and
5. Involved in a deceleration motor vehicle crash immediately prior to the arrest, or during transport to the jail.

If the admitting Employee notes any concerns with answers to questions 1 through 5 on the Medical Pre-Screen Form, or any concerns with answers to any of the questions on the Preliminary Health Evaluation Forms, the shift supervisor shall be notified. The shift supervisor shall evaluate the situation and will utilize the following guidelines to determine the proper course of action:

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1. If the prisoner is not conscious, the jail shift supervisor shall refuse to admit the arrested person into the jail, and shall immediately direct the individual presenting the arrested person for incarceration to seek immediate medical treatment for the prisoner in his/her custody, and should contact the appropriate emergency medical service to respond to take custody of the individual. Any jail medical staff members that are on duty will also be notified of the situation and will be asked to respond to assist with the care of the unconscious arrested person until the arrival of the emergency medical service.
2. If the arrested person is exhibiting obvious indications of a serious medical or mental disorder, or if the arrested person states that he/she is suicidal, such information shall be documented. The shift supervisor will then refuse to admit the arrested person into the jail and will direct the transporting officer to seek immediate medical attention for the arrested person.
3. If the arrested person has received medical treatment immediately prior to being presented for incarceration, the admitting Employee shall notify the jail shift supervisor. The individual presenting the arrested person for incarceration will provide proper documentation, as deemed proper by the jail shift supervisor, to that supervisor. The jail shift supervisor will ensure that the documentation contains a diagnosis of the arrested person's medical issue(s); an indication of any treatment that was provided for those medical issue(s); and an indication of any follow-up medical care that has been prescribed for those alleged issue(s). The jail supervisor will also ensure that the documentation does not contain a diagnosis of any medical issue(s) that would preclude the arrested person from being admitted as an inmate into the jail.

Any concerns about the suitability of an arrested person's admittance to the jail due to alleged or diagnosed medical issue(s) will be forwarded by the jail supervisor to the jail medical staff (if available), then to the Jail Administrator, then to the Chief Deputy, and then to the Sheriff (in that order), for a decision prior to the arrested person being admitted to the jail as an inmate.

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Erie County Jail Physician