


NORTHAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Administration & Operations Manual		
Policy: Handling Injuries/Illnesses		AOM: O-105
Massachusetts Police Accreditation Standards Referenced: [1.2.6], [72.6.1], [72.3.1 & 70.3.2], [70.3.2], [1.1.5], [55.2.6]		Issuing Authority <hr/> John D. Cartledge Chief of Police
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I. Introductory Discussion

Due to the nature of police work, officers will often be the first responders to incidents involving injury or illness to community members. It is important that officers be well aware of the procedures to follow in such situations, especially when the person injured or ill is a detainee. Once individuals are in police custody, the department is responsible for their well-being and can be held liable should an injury or illness go unnoticed and untreated.

Therefore, the purpose of this directive is to ensure that department members recognize and take immediate action on all medical emergencies.

II. Victims & Bystanders

- A. Responding officers shall provide immediate medical attention to all sick or injured individuals and should request the services of an ambulance when appropriate. This shall include suspects and detainees that request medical attention either when an officer is on a call or during the detention of arrest of a person. [1.1.5]

1. In the rare event that the individual's medical condition could be jeopardized by delay in awaiting the arrival of an ambulance, they can be transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department via cruiser if authorized by the Officer-in-Charge or Patrol Supervisor. In such cases, the Officer-in-Charge or Patrol Supervisor shall ensure that the Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department is contacted at 582-2109 and advised of the transport and possible problem to be evaluated.
2. Bystanders: When officers respond to a crime scene their primary duty is to take steps to control the situation and render medical assistance to any injured party as soon as it is safe to do so.
3. Traffic Accidents: After taking immediate precautionary measures to ensure that the accident scene is safe and protected, the officer's primary duty is to give prompt attention to the needs of any injured persons. If there is bodily injury, an ambulance will be requested and dispatched to the scene.

Note: Avoid moving injured persons unless necessary in order to prevent further injury.

4. Domestic Violence Victims: Officers are authorized by M.G.L. c. 209A to transport victims of domestic violence to Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department. Officers should receive approval from their supervisor prior to transporting victims via cruiser. In cases of serious injury however, the preferred method of transportation is by ambulance. If the victim is not seriously injured, or declines transportation, the victim may seek transportation through his/her own means.
 - a. If the victim is to be transported by cruiser, the Officer-in-Charge or Patrol Supervisor shall ensure that the Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department is contacted at 582-2109 and advised of the transport and possible problem to be evaluated.

III. Detainees [1.2.6] [72.6.1]

- A. If a detainee is sick or injured prior to, during or after custody and/or booking, immediate medical attention shall be provided and the services of an ambulance should be requested when appropriate. An officer shall accompany the detainee in the ambulance and shall closely monitor the detainee at all times during their, treatment, examination, or admission. [72.3.1 & 70.3.2]
 1. In the rare event that the detainee's medical condition could be jeopardized by delay in awaiting the arrival of an ambulance, the detainee can be transported directly to Cooley Dickinson Hospital by cruiser upon authorization from the Officer-in-Charge or Patrol Supervisor. In this case, the Officer-in-Charge or Patrol Supervisor shall ensure that the Cooley Dickinson Hospital Emergency Department is contacted at 582-2109 and advised of the transport and possible problem to be evaluated.

2. If the detainee's injury or illness is not of a serious nature, the detainee may also be transported to the hospital via cruiser, if authorized by the Officer-in-Charge.
- B. Hospital Admittance/Examination/ and/or Treatment: Should a detainee be admitted to the hospital, the Northampton Police Department may, at the discretion of the OIC, be responsible for providing security coverage. When an officer is assigned to guard a detainee admitted to the hospital, they shall: [70.3.2]
1. Ensure continued use of restraints in accordance with hospital restraint policy.
 2. Monitor all meals and inspect all utensils (including plastic utensils, trays, etc.) before and after all meals to ensure that the detainee is not able to take possession of any item that could be used as a weapon or as a means of escape.
 3. Monitor all personal and professional contacts with detainees, including routine nursing care and physical exams.
 4. All hospital employee's and medical staff should be wearing an official hospital identification badge with first name, job description, and photograph at minimum.
 5. Prohibit visitor access, including all telephone calls, with the exception of those received from the detainee's attorney.
 6. Avoid fraternization with the detainee and members of hospital staff at any time.
 7. The detainee should be monitored at all times.
 8. Record any unusual occurrences, including arrival and departure of attorney, and
 9. Carry out any other duties/responsibilities assigned by a Police Supervisor.
- C. Use of Force Situations: In cases of injury to detainees or suspects, officers shall be responsible to ensure that appropriate medical aid is provided to the injured subject at the earliest possible opportunity in accordance with the above procedures. [1.3.5]
1. The Officer-in-Charge shall be notified of all injuries incurred as a direct or indirect result of the use of force in an arrest situation. In addition, all such injuries shall be documented via the following methods:
 - a. In the arrest report, and
 - b. On ***AOM 0142.a Detainee Injury Report*** in accordance with ***AOM 0142 Detainee Processing & Confinement***.
 2. Refer to ***AOM 0101 Police Use of Force*** for additional administrative and reporting procedures in use of force situations.
- D. Juvenile Detainees: If a juvenile in police custody is in need of medical attention, the Officer-in-Charge shall ensure that they are provided with such attention in accordance with the procedures above. The Officer-in-Charge shall also make every attempt to see that the parent/guardian of said child is notified of the medical problem as soon as possible. They shall also see that documentation is made of the medical problem, the action taken relative to the problem, and the notification to the parent/guardian.

IV. Notifying Family Members in Cases of Death, Serious Bodily Injury or Serious Illness [55.2.6]

In any case of death, serious bodily injury or serious illness, whether accidental or not, the responding officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all family members are notified in accordance with departmental policy/procedures set forth in *AOM 0610 Dead Bodies*.