



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: Detention Facility Medical Procedures

Number: 317

Effective Date: January 24, 2024

Revised Date:

Rescinds: S-146 – Medical Services
S-121 – Attempted Suicide

Dated: 12-02-2015
07-20-2015

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Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the providing medical services to inmates of this holding facility.

II. POLICY

The Myrtle Beach Police Department will provide inmates with basic first aid for minor medical issues and transport those needing advanced medical care to an appropriate medical facility for treatment. When time permits and resources are available, we will provide inmates with access to the Myrtle Beach Police Department Mental Health Alliance as well as the Myrtle Beach Fire Department's Opioid Program Coordinator.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Inmates with Illness, Injury, or Disability

1. The detention facility is not equipped to treat inmates requiring medical attention at a level higher than basic first aid. Therefore:
 - i. No inmate shall be booked into the holding facility or otherwise held by this agency who has injuries or illnesses that require immediate medical attention beyond basic first aid. This includes obvious injuries or illness, as well as situations in which arrestees

- a. Suffer from extreme alcohol intoxication or possible drug overdose,
 - b. Exhibit symptoms consistent with severe mental disorder,
 - c. Have indicated intentions of committing suicide or shown signs of being a suicide risk, or
 - d. Exhibit symptoms or report conditions of possible contagious disease.
 - ii. Trained EMS personnel may treat minor injuries that do not require transport to a medical care facility.
 - iii. If the severity of medical conditions is unclear or if an inmate requests medical attention, he or she shall be transported as soon as possible to a medical care provider. Security of inmates shall be provided during transport and while at a medical care facility.
 - iv. Once the inmate is discharged, they will be transported back to the Myrtle Beach temporary holding facility or another detention facility.
 - v. Inmates requiring prolonged treatment at a medical care facility may be issued a medical courtesy if authorized by the watch commander. Authorization will be made on a case by case basis, and the watch commander is responsible for consulting with the court before authorizing a medical courtesy.
2. Screening:
- i. The arresting officer(s) and any officer transporting an inmate to this facility shall communicate all information relating to inmate injuries or illnesses, whether requiring immediate medical attention or not, to the booking officer or other appropriate holding facility personnel and shall note this information in a report.
 - ii. All inmates will be medically screened during the booking process unless the inmate is too disorderly or there is another extenuating circumstance. In such cases, the screening will take place as soon as appropriate. The screening will include:
 - a. Current physical and mental health;
 - b. Medications taken and specific health requirements;
 - c. Behavioral observation, including state of consciousness and mental status;
 - d. Notation of body deformities, trauma markings, bruises, lesions, ease of movement, jaundice, and other physical characteristics of medical interest;
 - e. Rashes and infestations;
 - f. Likelihood of a suicide attempt by the inmate.

B. First Aid Kit

1. A first aid kit is located and accessible to officers within the detention facility.
2. The first aid kit will be inspected at least once a week, and it will be replenished as necessary.

C. Recording and Reporting Suicide and Attempts

1. EMS shall be summoned when an attempted suicide is discovered, and the inmate shall be transported to a medical facility for medical and psychological evaluation.
2. As soon as the scene is stable, the on-duty supervisor shall notify the chain of command and provide initial details to include:
 - i. Inmate's name;
 - ii. Method of attempt;
 - iii. Condition of the inmate;
 - iv. Need for any additional resources.
3. The on-duty supervisor shall notify the watch commander and OPS to coordinate responsibility and resources for the following:
 - i. Evaluate the need for additional resources (manpower, counselling, equipment, etc.);
 - ii. Preserve the location and method;
 - iii. Photograph the scene;
 - iv. Photograph the injuries (or alleged injuries), if possible;
 - v. Interview the inmate, if possible;
 - vi. Collect witness statements from officers and inmates;
 - vii. Preserve the jail check log;
 - viii. Collect and preserve BWC and Milestone video;
 - ix. Notify SLED if fatal or may become fatal;
 - x. Notify the staff mental health counselor, if applicable;
 - xi. Complete and submit the Myrtle Beach Report of Attempted Suicide to the division captain within 15 days;
 - xii. Complete required South Carolina Department of Corrections reporting form and submit within five days.

D. In-Custody Deaths

1. All in-custody deaths shall be investigated according to protocols and procedures as previously established by this department and state or local authorities.
2. The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) will be notified of all in-custody deaths so they may initiate an investigation.