

<u>POLICY TITLE</u>		
SECURITY OF PRISONERS		
<u>AUTHORIZATION</u>	<u>DATE APPROVED</u>	<u>DATE REVISED</u>
Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer	April 2006	

PHILOSOPHY

Fraser Health recognizes the requirement to ensure appropriate security measures are in place to govern the escorting of prisoners to Fraser Health sites and to ensure the safe control of prisoners at those sites as an essential component of a safe and secure environment.

Fraser Health has a responsibility to ensure the safety of Fraser Health staff, physicians, volunteers, our patients and the public during the provision of health services and treatment to patients from correctional facilities or prisoners brought to Fraser Health facilities for other purposes (such as visiting a patient). Hundreds of prisoners each year access Fraser Health facilities, often from high security institutions, causing an increased security risk for these facilities. As such, appropriate, standardized security control measures must be in place and will be strictly enforced by Fraser Health through the Protection Services department.

At the same time, Fraser Health recognizes the expertise and legal right of the correctional agencies to make decisions around the designation of the risk level of inmates which will dictate the level of correctional escort and extend to the use of correctional restraint equipment such as legal restraints. Fraser Health is committed to ongoing communication with the correctional agencies to adapt correctional requirements to the health care environment.

Consistent application of this policy and related procedures will also lessen the anxiety and/or apprehension of patients, employees, physicians, volunteers and the public while allowing the prisoner, as a patient, access to required health services, without compromise to their sense of dignity while in the care of Fraser Health.

POLICY

Fraser Health is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment so that the highest possible standard of clinical care can be delivered to our patients, clients and residents.

As part of an overall strategy to ensure a safe and secure environment, Fraser Health has developed security requirements governing the escorting of prisoners to Fraser Health sites and the control of prisoners at our sites. Both the federal and provincial correctional agencies having jurisdiction have formally agreed to these security requirements.

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This policy requires a correctional facility to notify a Fraser Health site, through security personnel, prior to any prisoner arriving at a Fraser Health site so as to allow appropriate security precautions to be put in place. Minimum escort staffing levels and other security precautions are prescribed based on risk and a process for resolving conflicts, related to security requirements of prisoners, has been established.

NOTE: The procedures described in this document reflect security requirements for the safe control of prisoners and do not alleviate, in any way, the requirement for medical personnel at the correctional facility to make the necessary contact and exchange of information related to treatment, with clinical personnel at the health care facility.

DEFINITIONS

Prisoners – All persons held in the legal custody of federal or provincial correctional authorities.

Security Personnel – Contracted security staff trained and placed at Fraser Health sites by their contract security company and responsible for day to day security service at the site as per the contract.

Protection Services – Non-contract employees of Fraser Health with overall responsibility for security policy and processes at Fraser Health sites.

Correctional Staff – Employees of the federal or provincial correctional agency with responsibility for the safe control of the inmate.

PROCEDURE

1. Prior to departing a correctional facility with a prisoner destined for any Fraser Health facility, the correctional agency will notify security through a designated telephone number designed for this purpose.
2. The correctional agency will provide security with the following information:
 - Institution Housing Prisoner
 - Security/Risk Level
 - Name of Prisoner

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- Hospital Destination and Department within the Hospital
 - Estimated Time of Arrival
 - Any other relevant particulars
3. Security personnel, upon notification of a prisoner arrival, will log the information and take the following preventative measures as detailed in their security site post orders:
- Check the area where the correctional vehicle will arrive for suspicious individuals.
 - Walk the route the correctional escort party will take within the hospital and check in with the receiving department to ensure no suspicious individuals or circumstances and to convey information related to the prisoner risk level.
 - Greet the escort party and log them in and advise of any pertinent information including communication requirements.
 - Complete this protocol in reverse order once notified the correctional escort group is ready to depart.
4. The security levels for escorts to health care facilities will be based on risk as determined by the correctional agencies. As a rule, the following security levels will apply:

Corrections Escort Level				
Prisoner Risk Designation		Federal	Provincial	Notification
Federal	Provincial			Required
Unescorted Temp Absence	Unescorted Temp Absence	None	None	None
Minimum Institution	Level 3	1 Escort	1 Escort	Regular
Medium Institution	Level 2	2 Escorts	1 Escort	Regular
Maximum Institution	Level 1	2 Escorts	2 Escorts	Regular
Higher Risk Identified	Higher Risk Identified	Minimum 2 escorts plus special precautions	Minimum 2 escorts plus special precautions	Regular plus Protection Services Management Contact

5. Where "special precautions" are required, such as the escort of a very high risk or higher profile prisoner, Fraser Health's Protection Services management representative for the area must be contacted by the correctional agency and advised of the circumstances. This is in addition to the regular notification process through the contact number for security personnel.

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6. Any deviation from the agreed upon corrections escort levels can only be considered through consultation between the correctional agency and Fraser Health's Protection Services management representative and must be approved by Fraser Health on a case by case basis.
7. Fraser Health staff or personnel provided by contract to Fraser Health such as security personnel, will not assume any responsibilities for correctional officers or prisoners at anytime. Where available, security personnel may assist correctional officers in the management of an aggressive incident so as to ensure the safety of others in the facility. Where available, security personnel may also support correctional personnel in a response to an escape, attempted escape or other serious situation involving a prisoner.
8. When Police/Law Enforcement parking is not available, correctional staff will be responsible for their own parking as well as be responsible for their own meals and for making arrangements with the correctional facility for the return of the prisoner to the facility. In the case where correctional staff are provided a meal by Fraser Health, the associated costs shall be reimbursed by the correctional agency to Fraser Health.
9. The correctional agency must clearly convey restrictions on visitors for a prisoner who is an in-patient at a hospital. The prisoner will be admitted in the hospital registration system as a "no information" patient so that hospital staff will not confirm the presence of the prisoner as a patient to any external queries.
10. During medical procedures, correctional staff shall remain within sight and sound of the prisoner. In the case where a prisoner is anesthetized, the correctional staff shall attend until the prisoner is unconscious and then remain available in the immediate vicinity. During medical procedures, restraints shall remain on the prisoner unless they create a risk to the prisoner's health or negatively impact the ability to carry out the medical procedures.
11. Any non-treatment related queries by a prisoner made to hospital staff will be referred back to the on-site correctional staff.
12. Fraser Health staff will refer issues related to breach of these procedures or conduct issues, by either prisoners or correctional staff, to the Protection Services management representative responsible for the site. Concerns of correctional staff related to Fraser Health personnel or processes will also be communicated to the Protection Services management representative responsible for the site for resolution.