

TRANSPORTATION OF INCARCERATED/ HANDCUFFED PATIENTS

1. Purpose: To define a guideline to employ when transporting an incarcerated and/or handcuffed patient.
2. Policy:
 - 2.1. When LaSalle Ambulance personnel are caring for a patient that is “in custody” or an inmate at a corrections facility, law enforcement personnel must maintain an immediate presence at all times including during transport.
 - 2.1.1. Any patient who is handcuffed or restrained by law enforcement and transported by ambulance should be accompanied by law enforcement personnel in the patient compartment of the unit.
 - 2.1.2. When it is not possible or practical for law enforcement personnel to ride in the unit, an acceptable alternative is for law enforcement personnel to follow the ambulance to the hospital.
 - 2.1.3. If law enforcement personnel refuses to accompany the patient in the patient compartment and refuses to follow the ambulance to the hospital, contact the on-duty supervisor (ODS) immediately for guidance.
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. Continue to assess and provide care for that patient according to the *Green Book* protocols.
 - 3.1.1. If handcuffs are being used for medical provider safety, refer to the **RESTRAINTS procedure** and consider the use of soft restraints in conjunction with chemical restraints.
 - 3.2. DO NOT transport patients that are handcuffed and/or restrained in the prone position.
4. Additional Information:
 - 4.1. Medical priorities should take priority in the positioning of handcuffs.
 - 4.2. Patients should not be handcuffed to the stretcher.
 - 4.3. The Psychiatric Transport Safety Belt should be considered when transporting incarcerated/handcuffed patients.