



## TREATMENT OF INCARCERATED PATIENTS

MSRDP Operating Procedure Number: MSRDP 1.002                      see: Quality Management 01.003.62  
Effective Date: April 2002  
Prepared By: MSRDP Administration and UNTHSC Quality Management  
Purpose: To ensure incarcerated patients are treated with respect and dignity, and that the patients' care meets or exceeds acceptable standards. To protect patients, visitor's and staff.

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, MSRDP Board of Directors

- 1.0 **Policy** All patients receiving ambulatory health care shall be treated with quality care, confidentiality and respect.
- 2.0 **Purpose** To ensure incarcerated patients are treated with respect and dignity, and that the patients' care meets or exceeds acceptable standards. To protect patients, visitor's and staff.
- 3.0 **Definitions**
- 4.0 **Procedures**
  - 4.1 UNTHSC requires all incarcerated patients be guarded at all times by the custodial agency responsible for the prisoner.
  - 4.2 The patient registration will be performed in the clinic. The prisoner and guard will not be sent to central registration.
  - 4.3 Officers are to remain within the treatment/procedure room with the patient.
  - 4.4 Officers in the treatment/procedure room shall be positioned to provide patient privacy/confidentiality, but not so as to breach security and protection of the clinical staff.
  - 4.5 All faculty and clinical staff providing care/treatment shall be aware that prisoners can use medical/surgical instruments as weapons. Every possible precaution will be exercised to make such instruments inaccessible to the prisoner.
  - 4.6 The Campus Police shall assist the correctional officers as appropriate when requested. Campus Police will not provide relief coverage.



- 4.7 The correctional officer shall use external restraints unless they directly interfere with required medical care, to provide protection for faculty, staff, students, visitors, and other patients, and to prevent escape of the prisoner.
  - 4.8 No visitor shall be allowed in the treatment/procedure room except those authorized by the prison.
  - 4.9 Return appointment cards/slips/letters shall not be given to the prisoner, but may be given to the correctional officer.
  - 4.10 Copies of treatment plans/medical records are to be given to the correctional officer accompanying the prisoner, never to the prisoner.
  - 4.11 Any medications supplied to continue the treatment plan are to be given to the correctional officer accompanying the prisoner, never directly to the prisoner. As a rule, prescriptions will be issued through the correctional facility.
  - 4.12 Any breach of security regarding a prisoner shall be reported to Campus Police, Quality Management and MSRDP.
  - 4.13 Treatment plan/care shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
  - 4.14 Breaches of security shall be documented and forwarded to the appropriate UNTHSC office and UNTHSC Correctional Medicine.
- 5.0 **References**
- 6.0 **Follow-Up and Review** Policy to be reviewed as needed or every three (3) years.
- 7.0 **Responsibility**

Senior Associate Dean and Chief Medical Officer  
Vice President, Practice Operations and Chief Administrative Officer  
Senior Administrative Official in each Patient Care Department  
Director of Quality Management

