



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-83

Effective: 09/29/16 Review Due: 09/29/17 Replaces: 01/13/16

## 2-83 HOSPITAL PROCEDURES AND RULES

### 2-83-1 Purpose

This policy details the procedures to be followed when taking in-custody individuals to the hospital or medical facilities.

### 2-83-2 Policy

Department policy ensures medical care is provided to arrested persons and intoxicated persons when such care is needed, based on approved medical and legal procedures.

### 2-83-3 Definition

Intoxicated Person

A person whose mental or physical functioning is so substantially impaired as a result of the use of alcohol that the person has become disorderly or has become unable to care for his/her safety.

### 2-83-4 Procedures

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#### A. Protective Custody of Intoxicated Persons

1. Officers may transport intoxicated persons who have become disorderly to a health care facility for protective custody when it appears that the intoxicated person --
  - a. Has no local residence;
  - b. Is unable to care for his/her safety; or
  - c. Constitutes a danger to others if not taken into protective custody.
2. Officers will complete an offense report on all protective custody incidents by the end of their work shift.
3. Officers may transport intoxicated persons to Metropolitan Assessment and Treatment (MATS) as long as they are non-violent and are medically cleared for admission. Persons must be able to walk under their own power.
4. If a person discloses that they are using prescription medication and they do not have it in their possession, they should be taken to the nearest health care facility within Bernalillo County.

#### B.



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**7** Arrestees Who Need Medical Attention

1. When an arrestee is in need of non-emergency medical treatment, the arrestee will be taken to an Albuquerque hospital by the arresting officer before booking. Officers will follow the procedures listed in the [Restraint and Transportation of Prisoners SOP](#).
2. If the arrestee has insurance at a specific hospital facility or prefers a particular hospital, the officer will transport the arrestee to that facility in a nonemergency situation. This procedure applies as long as the hospital facility is within this jurisdiction.
3. When an arrestee is in need of emergency medical treatment, the arrestee will be transported only by ambulance.
4. Whenever possible, officers shall ensure that the arrestee's identification papers are available for use by ambulance and hospital personnel. If identification papers are not available, officers should provide any available identification information, such as name and date of birth, to ambulance and hospital personnel.
5. In all cases involving the use of rescue or ambulance personnel, the officer will defer to their choice of a hospital facility.

**7** C. Hospital In-Custody Procedures

1. As an alternative to guarding any non-violent, misdemeanor arrestees, a supervisor may consider the option of having the arresting officer issue a criminal summons or submitting the case to the district attorney's office.
2. Felony and all domestic violence arrestees will not be left unattended at a hospital.
3. Officers assuming guard duty will ensure that all arresting documents are present at the start of their shift. If the documents are not with the arrestee, the original arresting officer or detective will be contacted to ensure that those documents are on hand.
4. Officers should maintain line of sight supervision of the arrestee. If the arrestee has a medical isolation order, then officers will be expected to perform 15 minute visual checks on the prisoner.
5. Arrestees will be restrained at all times, including during any medical movements or when the arrestee uses the restroom and shower facilities.
  - a. Exceptions may be made for medical requirements, the elderly, or other persons with physical handicaps which preclude the use of handcuffs.



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- b. Very careful evaluation and discretion must be utilized by officers in determining when exceptions apply. The nature of an arrestee's illness, injury, or physical handicap must be weighed against the threat the arrestee poses to the officer. Partial restraint is preferable to no restraint at all.
6. All landline telephones will be removed from the hospital room. Arrestees are prohibited from using any hospital telephones or cell phones.
7. Arrestee meals will be ordered in person through the nursing service. Officers will verify that only plastic utensils are used for meals and will ensure that all utensils and straws are collected at the end of each meal.
8. If the safety or security of an arrestee is compromised, then a request will be made to move the arrestee into another hospital room as soon as possible.
9. Arrestee visits from family members and friends are prohibited.
10. Case detectives or hospital staff will never be allowed to override any APD hospital guard duty policy.

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D. Securing Weapons at Health Care Facilities

1. If an officer is injured or wounded and is admitted to a healthcare facility, the officer's weapon(s) must be secured by an accompanying officer or supervisor.
2. If officers are called to a health-care facility for any event that requires police intervention, the responding officers will remain armed. The authorization to remain armed stands even if the officers must enter the interior of the health-care facility.
3. If an officer is not responding to a call at a health care facility but is there on official business, the officer shall remain armed.