



Security - Use of Handcuffs Procedure

1. Guiding Principles

Effective: 17 July 2019

As part of the [WACHS Preventing and Managing Occupational Violence Strategy 2019-23](#), this procedure has been developed to ensure staff and patients are protected from persons committing a breach of the WA Criminal Code where the perpetrator of the crime can be easily controlled with the application of handcuffs.

Mechanical restraint, other than the use of a medical or surgical appliance for the proper treatment of a physical disease or injury (Section 230 *Mental Health Act 2014*) will not be operated in any guise for the control of health patients.

2. Procedure

This procedure is only applicable to the Bunbury Health Campus.

Only security officers who have completed the required competency-based training course - Handcuff and Defensive Tactics - will be allowed to carry and use handcuffs as part of executing their daily duties.

The decision to initiate the use of handcuffs can only be made by Security Officers who have completed the "Handcuffs and Defensive Tactics" course conducted annually by an approved training provider.

Handcuffs are only to be used to restrain a person in the external areas of the hospital site, who is not a patient and has committed a breach of the WA Criminal Code. Handcuffs are to be used as a last resort after all other means of negotiation, de-escalation and other safe physical methods of restraint have been exhausted. Handcuffs should not be used to restrain a person in a clinical area.

Security Officers need to have a clear understanding of guidelines pertaining to the "powers of arrest" and the "use of reasonable force" under the WA Criminal Code before initiating the use of restraints.

The terms of the use of handcuffs must be clearly explained to the offender by the Security Officer, who is, as soon as practicable, to advise them which section(s) of the WA Criminal Code they have breached.

WA Police are to be notified as soon as practicable regarding the restraint of an offender with handcuffs and their alleged breach of the WA Criminal Code.

Handcuffs are only to be applied to the offenders' wrists either with arms in front of the body or behind the back. Where practicable, the handcuffed person must be placed in a seated position on the floor and must be continually monitored until the Police arrive and take custody of the person.

Offenders must never be handcuffed to a Security Officer, a vehicle or fixture.

Duty of care of the offender must be taken into consideration at all times.

The wellbeing of the offender is the sole responsibility of the Security Officer.

The Security Officer who applies the handcuffs is responsible for completing a detailed report, including witness statements to the Operations Manager, or Nurse Manager out of hours, as soon as practicable after the incident and in any case within 24 hours.

All staff are required to work within WACHS policies and guidelines.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

As above

4. Compliance

Security Officers who breach the guidelines for the application of handcuffs as per the “Handcuff and Defensive Tactics Training Course” or the section of the WA Criminal Code relating to “Powers of Arrest” may be held personally responsible for the consequences of those actions.

They may also be in breach of the WA Health System [MP0031/16 Code of Conduct Policy](#) The Code is part of the [Employment Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

5. Evaluation

Monitoring of compliance with this document is to be carried out by the Security Management Team each time an Incident occurs through the reporting and recording of each incident on the Security Incident Reporting System.

A debriefing is to take place with all people involved in the incident as soon as practicable after the event.

Results and recommendations are to be tabled at the Bunbury Hospital Management meeting and where applicable the joint operational management meeting.

6. References

Western Australian *Criminal Code Act 1913*

Mental Health Act 2014 (WA)

NSQHS Standards: Safe Environment for the delivery of care

AS 4485.2-1997: Security for Health Care facilities

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