Policy Directive 28
Appendix 1

Prisoner Escorts – Appendix 1

Health Services Policy, Protocols and Procedures

Admissions - Infirmary 1.6

The following Health Services standard applies:

2.2 Access to appropriate medical treatment within and outside of the facility will be facilitated.

1. Policy

Patients who require inpatient care, on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner, for an illness or diagnosis that requires daily medication and/or therapy, assistance with activities of daily living, or other nursing care on a daily basis will be admitted to the Infirmary.

2. Relevant Legislation / Guidelines

- Bandyup Local Order 15
- Casuarina Prison Local Order 25
- Prisons Act 1981
- Prisons Regulations 1982.

3. Statement

The following policy provides general guidance on the criteria for admission to the Casuarina/Bandyup Infirmary. This policy was developed in line with the Standards for Health Services in Prisons, National Commission on Correctional Health Care, 1992 (USA).

The infirmary is an area within the prison accommodating up to 20 patients in the case of Casuarina and 2 beds in the case of Bandyup, for a period of 24 hours or more, expressly set up and operated for the purpose of caring for patients who are not in need of hospitalisation or licensed nursing facility placement, but whose care cannot be managed safely in an outpatient setting. Infirmary care is defined as inpatient care provided to patients with an illness or diagnosis that requires daily medication and/or therapy, assistance with activities of daily living, or other nursing care on a daily basis. The care provided to patients in the infirmary is under the supervision of a registered nurse.

Casuarina/Bandyup Prison's also provide a Crisis Care facility for prisoners who need a more protective environment, but who do not require 24 hour per day
nursing care. The requirements of the infirmary policy do not apply to the Crisis Care Unit since these individuals are not inpatients.

The scope of services provided in the Infirmary are:

i. accommodation for up to 20 patients for 24 hours or more at Casuarina
ii. accommodation for up to 2 patients for 24 hours or more at Bandyup
iii. cares for patients not in need of hospitalisation
iv. provides inpatient bed care with registered nurse supervision
v. illness requires limited observation and/or management
vi. a medical officer is responsible for “advancement of quality care”.

The internal requirements for the Infirmary are:

i. medical officer on call 24 hr/day
ii. daily supervision by a registered nurse
iii. sufficient staff for 24 hour coverage
iv. patients are kept within sight or hearing of nursing staff
v. existent manual of nursing procedures
vi. complete inpatient record for each patient
vii. admission and discharge only by order of the medical officer.

4. Procedure

4.1 Infirmary Admissions

The Infirmary refers to the 20 beds allocated to the Casuarina Infirmary and the two beds allocated to Bandyup Infirmary but excludes the beds allocated to Safe Cells and Crisis care Units.

Admissions to the Infirmary must meet the following criteria:

4.1.1 The patient requires ongoing care that is not available to him/her within the general prison system ie via outpatient appointments.

4.1.2 Patients will only be admitted to the Infirmary for treatment of a medical, surgical or psychiatric condition that would normally require hospitalisation but does not require secondary or tertiary care.

4.1.3 All admissions are requested by a DoJ Medical Officer, prior to admission. (Normally nursing staff may not place a patient in the Infirmary without referral from the medical officer on-duty or on-call however, in the event that neither is available then they may admit the patient, subject to discussion and interim approval by a medical officer within 6 hours of admission.)

4.1.4 Admissions must be approved by the Clinical Nurse Manager, taking into account bed availability and staffing levels.

4.1.5 New admissions must have a documented admission assessment by a Medical Officer within 48 hours including a primary diagnosis and a care plan.
4.1.6 Patients in the Infirmary should be reviewed daily (Monday to Friday) by the medical officer to determine suitability for discharge. Discharge can only be authorised by the medical officer.

4.2 Exclusion Criteria

4.2.1 Patients diagnosed as 'self harm' (refer to section 3 for processes to manage these patients).

4.2.2 Patients diagnosed as 'at-risk' but without a significant acute health condition.

4.2.3 Patients presenting for 'management' purposes.

4.3 Management of Self Harm/Suicide/At Risk

Refer to Casuarina Prison Local Order 25 and Bandyup Prison Local Order 15.

4.3.1 Patients at risk of self harm / suicide should be admitted to the Crisis Care Wing, following treatment of any sustained injury. These patients should not be admitted to the infirmary.

4.3.2 Primary responsibility for the management of patients in these categories rests with the Prisoner Risk Assessment Group.

4.4 Admissions following discharge from a metropolitan hospital

4.4.1 Prior to discharge the medical staff of the treating hospital should be contacted by the Clinical Nurse Manager (CNM) of the prison where the patient was sent from to determine whether the patient requires on-going treatment within the Infirmary. The CNM is then responsible for obtaining authorisation from the medical officer for admission.

4.4.2 It is the responsibility of the CNM at Casuarina/Bandyup Prison to notify the Superintendent or delegate of the proposed admission. The Superintendent (or delegate) of Casuarina/Bandyup Prison will not unreasonably refuse any admission so requested.

4.4.3 Should the patient be discharged from hospital without a recommendation on placement, then the patient should be routinely transferred to the Infirmary for further assessment prior to transfer to the prison from which the prisoner was removed. In these cases assessment is to occur immediately on arrival and authorisation obtained from the Medical officer.

4.4.4 Routine placement of patients following minor day surgery including dental surgery, other than where placement within the Infirmary is recommended by the discharging medical practitioner, will be to the prison from which the prisoner was removed (Refer to Policy Directive PD 28 - Section 3.5).
5. **Performance Indicators**

- Patients admitted to the Infirmary will be recommended for admission by a medical officer
- Patients admitted to the Infirmary will have a primary diagnosis that requires treatment in the Infirmary.

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