



Policy Directive 75

(Medical) Fitness to Travel Assessment for Prisoners undergoing Escorted Travel

Legislation referred to: [Prisons Act 1981](#) ss 95A, 95B, 95D

1. Introduction

Prisoners lawfully absent from prison for the purpose of undergoing escorted travel continue to be prisoners and are deemed to be lawfully in custody. The requirement 'to ensure that medical care and treatment is provided to prisoners' accordingly extends to prisoners undergoing escorted travel.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a proper health assessment of each prisoner is conducted prior to their departure from a prison under escort and that proper care is available to them during the escort.

3. Scope

This policy applies to Adult Custodial, Offender Management and Professional Development and Contracted Services Divisions respectively and has application to all prisoners in Western Australian prisons.

4. Definitions

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| T&D Sheet | means the Transfer and Discharge Sheet produced through TOMS |
| OIC | means the officer in charge of the prison in the absence of the designated Superintendent |
| essential medication | in this policy means medication authorised by Health Services Clinicians that in its absence would have a profound or significant effect on the prisoner's health and/or fitness to travel at that time |
| escorted travel | means a prisoner's movement between two locations on a departmental owned, chartered or contracted vehicle or aeroplane, while under escort by a prison officer, police officer or contracted officer |
| fitness to travel | means a prisoner's ability to undertake vehicular or air travel in an air-conditioned vehicle, subject to adequate rest stops, sustenance and hydration and the availability of essential medication, without significant medical risk |

5. Policy Content

5.1 Air-conditioning

The Department will ensure that any department owned, chartered or contracted vehicle used to transport prisoners will have a functioning air-conditioning system servicing the part of the vehicle in which the prisoner is located. Where such a vehicle is not available, alternate arrangements will be made.

5.2 Assessment

The Department will conduct a health assessment of each prisoner to determine the prisoner's fitness to undergo escorted travel, in accordance with the following:

A fitness to travel assessment will be undertaken at the same time as the Initial Health review upon reception, at the annual Health review and updated whenever the prisoner's medical status changes.

Where a prisoner is identified as requiring essential medication, the assessment shall address whether the essential medication will likely be required during the course of the escort and if so, appropriate arrangements are to be made.

Where necessary, the fitness to travel health assessment shall address a prisoner's medical fitness to undertake air travel in a non-pressurised aeroplane.

In the case of prisoners who are approved or required to undertake regular or ongoing escorted travel (examples below), a fitness to travel assessment shall be reviewed prior to the first such escort and if certified fit to travel, the prisoner is deemed to remain fit to travel unless and until the prisoner's health status changes. In such event the prisoner's fitness to travel status shall be reviewed and updated.

Examples of ongoing escorted travel (ie includes but not limited to) - where a prisoner is assessed and approved for:

- participation in section 95 external activities
- Placement at a work camp
- participation in the PEP
- participation in home/re-integration leave
- or, where a prisoner has been scheduled for ongoing court appearances.

Health Services will ensure that at the Initial, Annual or any subsequent Health check, the prisoner's Medical Status on TOMS is updated.

5.3 Scheduled escorts

The Movement Officer at each prison will provide the T&D Sheet to the local Clinical Nurse Manager (CNM) or delegate by the close of business each day for the following day's discharges and escorts.

The OIC will ensure that on weekends, the CNM or delegate is provided with a T&D Sheet for the following day.

5.4 Unscheduled Emergency Escort

The Movements Officer or the OIC will ensure that Nursing staff are consulted as to whether the prisoner is fit to travel prior to the transfer being effected.

5.5 Exemptions

Where a Prisoner is conveyed by Ambulance the requirements of this policy do not apply.

Where a prisoner is travelling by themselves (eg PEP) or in the company of a sponsor in a private vehicle (eg home leave), the requirements of this policy do not apply. (Refer definition of escorted travel)

5.6 Mandatory Requirements

The Movements Officer is to confirm a Fit to Travel certification has been made and that the escort officers are provided with any necessary medication and/or instructions provided by Prison Health Services Clinicians.

The Movements Officer shall ensure that at least one of the escorting officers has a current CPR qualification

The CNM or delegate will inform the Movements Officer/OIC of any prisoner on the T&D Sheet who is not fit to travel.

The Superintendent shall not approve the T&D Sheet until such time as consultation with Health Services has occurred.

6. Related Key legislation/Policies

- [Adult Custodial Rule 10](#)
- Policy Directives [28](#), [44](#)
- Health Services Policy: CC-3, CC-3 and CC-49
- [Prisons Act 1981](#) ss 95A, 95B, 95D

7. Approval

Commissioner:




Date:

8 November 2010

This policy takes effect upon publication.

Policy Sponsor

Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations

Contact Person

The following officer may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:
Superintendent Operations

Amendment History

| Version | Approved | Effective from |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
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