

RECOMMENDATION 032416-3

Directive 630.45, Emergency Custody Transports—should be revised

FULL TEXT:

Directive 630.45, Emergency Medical Custody Transports, should be revised as follows:

1. The directive should contain only policy statements. Since such policy statements apply to all members of the PPB, extraneous and confusing section titles, such as “Policy,” “Procedure” and “Member Responsibilities,” should be eliminated.
2. The directive should be clarified and revised so that persons who are seriously injured, seriously ill, unconscious, having difficult breathing or having other serious medical problems are not transported by anyone other than Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
3. Current paragraph 1.1 of the current section titled “Policy” in the directive should be revised to eliminate the term “excited delirium” and to read: “Appears to be agitated, over stimulated, paranoid, disoriented, or extremely restless or to be having involuntary twitching of small muscles or hallucinations.”
4. Current paragraph 1.3 of the current section titled “Policy” in the directive should be revised to read: “Displays respiratory difficulty (per witness statements or self-proclamation) including, but not limited to, shortness of breath or extreme wheezing.”
5. Current paragraph 1.1.3 of the current section titled “Procedure” in the directive shall be revised to read: “EMS personnel at a scene will determine whether an in-custody person is seriously injured, seriously ill, unconscious, having difficult breathing or for any other reason requires medical treatment or further medical evaluation and, if so, only EMS, unless unable to transport, will transport the person to a hospital.”
6. Current paragraph 1.1.4 of the current section titled “Procedure” in the directive should be revised to read: “The PPB values human life and needs to ensure the health and safety of persons is not jeopardized by members transporting persons who have serious medical problems. Members must notify EMS personnel of the custody status of the person (e.g., arrested with criminal charges, police hold, etc.) as well as full disclosure of the following:
 - a. the type and amount of any force used against the person including, but not limited to:
 - i. whether the person was struck by an officer or another person and, if so, with what (e.g., fist, elbow, knee, foot, baton, flashlight, or bean bag), how many times was the person struck, and what reaction person appeared to have to being struck;

ii. whether the person was pushed, tackled or taken down, or for any reason struck a hard surface (e.g., iron railing, brick wall, pavement, or sidewalk) and what reaction the person appeared to have to that event;

iii. any use of the taser on the person, how many times was the person tasered, and what reaction the person appeared to have to each use of the taser; and

iv. any use of pepper spray on the person and what reaction the person appeared to have to being pepper sprayed.

b. either prior to (per witness statements or self-proclamation) or during police contact, did the person appear to have had or to be:

i. agitated, over stimulated, paranoid, disoriented, extremely restless involuntary twitching of small muscles, or hallucinations;

ii. any seizure;

iii. any respiratory difficulty including, but not limited to, shortness or breath or extreme wheezing;

iv. obvious signs of head trauma or loss of consciousness;

v. signs of extreme intoxication and/or under the influence of drugs in conjunction with any of the above symptoms and has been involved in a prolonged physical altercation;

vi. admits to being under the influence of cocaine or amphetamine substances and has been involved in a prolonged physical altercation.

c. any complaints by the person regarding his medical condition including, but not limited to:

i. pain;

ii. difficulty breathing; or

iii. a need for the person's prescribed medication.

7. Current paragraph 1.3.2 of the current section titled "Procedure" in the directive should be revised to read: "If the medical staff at the Multnomah County Detention Center, another jail or a holding facility refuses to admit a person transported by a member of the PPB to the location, EMS will be called. Persons who are seriously injured, seriously ill, unconscious, having difficult breathing or having other serious medical problems will not be transported to the hospital by anyone other than EMS.

