

ROLE OF HEALTHCARE IN PLANNED AND UNPLANNED USE OF FORCE

Introduction

Healthcare staff have a duty of care to the prisoner under restraint. It is recognised that a 24-hour healthcare presence is not available in all establishment and therefore staff receive mandatory training for the medical considerations when applying force. Where a registered healthcare professional is on site then they must be contacted whenever there is a use of force incident.

Prior to the planned use of force

- 1.1 When healthcare staff (registered nurse, hospital officer or doctor) are on duty in the establishment they **MUST** attend a planned C&R intervention.

At the start of an unplanned incident

- 1.2 A member of healthcare (e.g. a registered nurse, hospital officer or doctor) must, whenever reasonably practicable, attend every incident where staff are deployed to restrain violent or disturbed prisoners.

During a C&R incident

- 1.3 A member of healthcare staff attending a C&R incident must monitor the prisoner (and members of the C&R team in an extreme circumstance)
- 1.4 They must provide clinical advice to the supervisor and/or team in the event of a medical emergency.
- 1.5 Any clinical advice offered must be adhered to by the supervisor and / or team.
- 1.6 In the event of a medical emergency (an assessment must be made) all locks must be released and the attendance of an appropriately qualified healthcare professional must be requested immediately.
- 1.7 Role of Healthcare during a planned use of force

- Provide guidance on what healthcare staff may disclose about a prisoner's previous health records.
- Healthcare staff are responsible to monitor whether the prisoner is still breathing and still conscious throughout the incident.
- Guidance on post incident observation.
- Guidance on how involved healthcare are in relocation.

- 1.8 Role of Healthcare during an unplanned use of force.

- Provide guidance on what backup equipment they should carry.
- Assess the safety of the situation (prisoner and officer safety)
- Advise officers on healthcare issue (i.e. the risk of positional asphyxia etc)
- Get any medical equipment needed.

After an incident involving force

- 1.9 An appropriately qualified healthcare professional (doctor or registered nurse) must be informed whenever force has been used on a prisoner. They must examine the prisoner as soon as possible and must complete a F213 in all cases even if the prisoner appears not to have sustained any injuries. The prisoner must see an appropriately qualified healthcare professional within 24 hours of the incident occurring.

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