

Prisoner Patients

Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center cares for prisoner patients of the surrounding areas. The following guidelines have been established for prisoner care:

- Prisoner patients are to be treated with the same dignity and respect as other patients.
- Prisoners are to be in shackles and handcuffs at all times while at LJCMC.
 - The Joint Commission's standards for restraints do not apply to prisoner patients.
- At least a 1 guard to 1 prisoner ratio must be maintained at all times.
 - Exception: A ratio of 2 guards to 1 prisoner must be maintained anytime the restraints need to be removed from the prisoner.
- Prisoners are to wait in a separate area away from other patients for their appointments
- Once a prisoner is admitted to the hospital, they will be shackled to the bed at all times.
 - There will be a sign placed above the prisoner's headboard that states:
"Metal constraints in use, remove prior to defibrillation."
- The hospital room will be cleared of the following items:
 - Telephone
 - Extra Tubing
 - Aerosol cans
 - Loose metal/wood objects
 - Extra towels/linens
 - Cleaning Supplies
 - Clothes hangers
- A prisoner is not allowed to have visitors, make phone calls, or have their family informed of their hospital stay.
 - You are NOT allowed to make phone calls for prisoners.
- A prisoner will not be told of the planned date of admission or discharge.
- A prisoner will not be given any discharge paperwork.

Guards with a prisoner patient are responsible for maintaining a safe environment for anyone who may come into contact with the prisoner. The following regulations have been established for guards:

- Guards must be awake, alert, and have the prisoner in direct eyesight at ALL times.
- Guards must wear the appropriate uniform and ID badge while at LJCMC.
- Guards must provide their own meals.
- Guards must arrange for relief from another prison guard if they must leave.

You should NEVER ask a prisoner what crime they committed. You do not need that information to care for the prisoner and finding out why they are in prison may inadvertently affect your ability to show empathy to properly care for that patient.