Safety and Scheduling of Patients in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) - John Sealy Unit

Purpose

This document presents the policy and guidelines adhered to by the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy staff when providing services in the TDCJ Hospital and working with inmates from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Audience

All members of the Rehabilitation Services Department

Policy

Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy services will be provided to patients at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) - John Sealy Unit on floors in the Towers and during TDCJ out-patient clinics.

Rooms and Clinic Treatment

Treatment of hospital patients will take place in their rooms with the supervision of an officer for staff safety. Treatment of inmates in the clinics will be performed in the gym area (3C wing) and in the presence of an officer to assure the safety of the staff.

Inmate Patient Security Levels

There are several security levels for inmate patients. The level for each patient will be posted on the individual hospital room door. All doors are locked, except for progressive care

- Level II (salmon) and Level III (green) - It is not necessary for an officer to accompany the Rehabilitation Services staff member into the room. If desired by the staff member, an officer will accompany the therapist into the room for the treatment session.
- Level IV (yellow) - Administrative Segregation. Two officers remain in the patient's room throughout the treatment session.

Officer Behavior

- Officers will remain in the splint room or clinic at all times when an inmate is being treated. He/she is not to leave the room unless another officer is able to substitute during his/her absence.
- If, at any time, an officer leaves the room leaving a therapist alone with an inmate, the therapist will leave the room and he/she will report the officer on duty to his/her immediate supervisor regarding the officer leaving his post. The therapist will return to treat the patient upon return of the officer.

Continued on next page

Safety and Scheduling of Patients in TDCJ - John Sealy Unit, Continued

Officer Behavior (continued)

- Officers, while in the clinic, may remove sharps from the treatment area that they feel are dangerously close to an inmate. If a discussion needs to follow in regards to this, it will be addressed in the absence of the inmate.
- Good judgment will be used when conversing in front of an inmate. Therapists or officers will not discuss personal issues.

Inmate Rules

During treatment:

- The inmate(s) must sit on the bed or chair. Patients are not to be walking around the room. (Exception: If part of their therapy requires ambulation or movement).
- The overhead room lights must be on.
- The door must remain open while the therapist is in the room.
- The TV/radio volume should be lowered.

Scheduling TDCJ Patients

Patients to be treated in the TDCJ hospital clinics will be scheduled as follows:

- Therapists treating patients in the therapy clinic Monday-Friday should contact the escort service (x26142 or x26165) to inform the PT/OT available. All inmates will be escorted by an escort officer.
- If a patient is to be seen in the clinic after 5:00pm or on weekends, the therapist should contact the floor sergeant or the individual in charge on that patient's specific floor to arrange the patient's transportation.

Continued on next page

Usage of Equipment

Equipment will be utilized during treatment based on the treating therapist plan of care and given to patients for their use according to the guidelines of the TDCJ hospital.

Splint Fabrication Equipment

Regularly-used equipment:

- Equipment used for splint fabrication on a regular, daily basis will be stored in a locked cabinet in the splint room (3 C wing)
- All inventory checklist will be kept in the splint room at all times.
- Items taken to areas of use other than the splint room will be signed out upon removal and signed back in when replaced, adhering to locking and inventory procedures.

Tool Inventory

A tool inventory will occur each time the tool is returned. Inventory will be monitored at the end of each day to assure no tools are signed out or missing.

Ambulation Aids

Ambulation aids such as walkers, crutches and canes are maintained in a closet in the 3 C Wing.