



Tips and Techniques

Portland Police Bureau

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Request from Emergency Rooms to call ahead

The purpose of this bulletin is to assist officers with bringing in mentally ill patients to the Providence and Portland Adventist Emergency Rooms.

The staff and management of both hospitals has requested that any officer who is bringing in a voluntary or in-voluntary patient, please call ahead or get someone else to call ahead for them to notify the charge nurse of their impending arrival. (The charge nurse is like the Sergeant of the nurses in the emergency room.)

The reason for this request is that the walk-in traffic at all area emergency room's has gone up over the past several years. The hospital ER's are going on "divert" for ambulance traffic more and more frequently. The resulting wait for a bed is now much longer than it used to be, and could be several hours or more. Providence has told me that they are getting 10-15 walk in psych patients a day, and an average 350 psych patients a month. As a result of all this traffic both hospitals are asking for our help in calling ahead so the charge nurse can work out several issues:

- Which room or bed is most appropriate due to the sex or age of the patient.
- Is the patient combative? -extra nurses and security should be present when the patient arrives.
- Is this a returning patient that has been in their system before?
- Is this a voluntary or in-voluntary?

They have also requested that if we drop off a voluntary patient, that we give them a copy of the Special report. After we leave this may be the only record the staff has to refer to, as to why the person came in.

When we do call the charge nurse, they would like to have the following information:

- Name
- D.O.B.
- Reason for transport
- E.T.A.
- Combative or non-combative?

The 24/7 phone number for the charge nurse at the Providence ER is: **503-215-7230**

The 24/7 phone number for the charge nurse at the Portland Ad. ER is: **503-251-6155**

If you have any questions please call the CIT Coordinators Office at 503-823-0183.

ROSANNE M. SIZER
Chief of Police

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