

OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

PORTLAND – SALEM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 1: Administration

POLICY: 1.006

SUBJECT: Patient Motor Vehicle Use/Determining
Ability to Use a Motor Vehicle

POINT

PERSON: MICHAEL DURAN

APPROVED: GREG ROBERTS 
SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: October 26, 2011

I. POLICY

- A. Patients are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle without written authorization of the Superintendent. Operating a motor vehicle is a privilege and not a right.
- B. Prior to discharge, every patient shall be assessed by their attending physician to determine if the patient is competent to drive in accordance with criteria established by the Medical Staff to carry out the provisions of ORS 807.060 through 807.710. This policy does not apply to discharges/transfers between the Department of Corrections and Oregon State Hospital (OSH).
- C. The attending/ OSH unit physician is required to notify the Superintendent when a determination has been made that a patient should not drive due to their mental condition. The Superintendent shall cause this information to be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles. (ORS 807.700)
- D. The attending/ OSH unit physician is required to cause a report to be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles when providing health care services to a person over 14 years of age who has a cognitive or functional impairment which is severe and uncontrollable, and affects that person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. (ORS 807.710 OAR 735-074-0110).
- E. Patients are required to surrender their motor vehicle keys and operating licenses upon admission to OSH.

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- F. Patients shall not store their motor vehicle(s) on the grounds of OSH. Exceptions should be referred to the Director of Communications, Security, and Transportation Services.
- G. OSH assumes no liability for damage to patient's motor vehicle(s) while the owner is a patient. The hospital further assumes no liability for damage to a patient's or visitor's vehicle while on OSH grounds.
- H. Upon discharge from the hospital or residential treatment setting the attending/consulting physician shall make a determination whether or not the patient is competent to drive.

II. PROCEDURES

- A. The Medical Staff shall follow the policy and procedures detailed in the Medical Department Manual that relates to determining the reporting of impairments that affect a patient's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- B. In the event that a patient needs to operate a motor vehicle as part of treatment or psychosocial rehabilitation, the attending/consulting physician shall submit a written request to the Superintendent. The request must state the clinical necessity for a patient to operate a motor vehicle, any limitations on vehicle use (such as: only for employment purposes, no passengers, etc.), and certification by the attending physician that the patient is competent to drive in accordance with Oregon Law. In addition, the request must include verification by the patient's social worker that the patient has a valid motor vehicle operating license and is covered by motor vehicle insurance.
- C. If there is reason for the patient to store their vehicle(s) on OSH grounds, the Director of Communications, Security, and Transportation Services shall review the request for approval/disapproval and, if approved, decide where the vehicle(s) shall be stored.
- D. Keys and operating licenses shall be surrendered upon admission and kept in the Communications Center for safekeeping.
- E. The attending/consulting physician shall inform the patient that, in accordance with Oregon Law, a determination has been made at time of discharge whether or not the patient is competent to drive.
- F. Keys and operating license shall be returned to the patient at the time of discharge with the Superintendent's written approval.

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III. REFERENCES

ORS 807.060(5), 807.090, 807.700 (1), 807.710 (2)(A), (3)
OAR 735-074-0110, 735-074-0120

Replaces OSH Policy and Procedure 1.006, *Patient Motor Vehicle Use/Determining Ability to Use a Motor Vehicle*, dated 9/26/2008.