

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
432**

TRANSPORTATION OF INMATES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

Supersedes: 12/17/12; (Temporary, 10/02/13); 10/15/13; (Temporary, 04/24/2017)
Effective Date: 05/16/17

AUTHORITY: NRS 209.131, NRS 209.331, NRS 209.376, NRS 209.321; NRS 209.3515, NRS 450B.237, 42 U.S.C. § 15601, *et seq.* and 28 C.F.R. Part 115

PURPOSE

To ensure an inmate transportation system that assures timely access to services only available outside the correctional facility for compliance with federal and state regulations and to protect the safety of staff, inmates, and the public.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Corrections is responsible for the implementation of this AR through the Deputy Director of Operations and the Medical Director.

The Deputy Director Operations and Medical Director are responsible through the respective Wardens and Directors of Nursing for overall implementation and compliance regarding this regulation.

All Department medical and custody staff are responsible to have knowledge of and comply with this regulation.

The Medical staff are responsible to ensure compliance with procedures for inmates who are in need of medical care, beyond the resources available in the institution, as determined by the Health Care Professional or Mid-Level Practitioner, receive the needed care.

432.01 ROUTINE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION OF INMATES

1. The Warden in conjunction with the Director of Nursing (DON) at each institution/facility will have arrangements with an outside medical facility to provide medical services on a 24 hour a day basis.
2. Each institution/facility will maintain operating procedures for the method of transporting inmates to community hospitals which will include procedure for search that complies with this AR. All cross gender pat searches or unclothed searches must conform to Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards.

3. It is the responsibility of the Director of Nursing Services/designee to schedule outside medical appointments and to coordinate transportation to and from the appointment with central transportation and/or institutional staff.

4. During times of heavy transportation requirements (i.e., court appearances, transfers between institutions), it may be necessary to reschedule non-essential medical appointments to make maximum usage of transportation resources. However, medical emergencies will take priority over transfers between institutions.

A. It is the sole responsibility of Medical Division staff to make the determination of which appointments are essential and which appointments are to be rescheduled.

B. Inmate appointments deemed essential by the Medical Division staff will be kept on the scheduled date and time.

5. A Transportation Order Request form generated from NOTIS or Transportation Order Request form (DOC-2042) must be completed for every inmate being transported for medical reasons. The Warden or Facility Manager designee can approve the transportation orders.

6. When possible, non-emergency medical transportation will be in a screened, radio equipped State vehicle.

7. The officers conducting the transport will inspect the vehicle prior to initiating the transport to ensure that it is in good working order.

8. The officers conducting the transport will inspect the vehicle prior to and after the transport for cleanliness and to ensure that there is no contraband that the inmate/inmates may have access to.

9. The officers conducting the transport will log the time and mileage upon departure and return to the facility.

10. The transporting vehicle will be safely parked in an authorized area and securely locked before it is left unattended.

11. Whenever it becomes necessary to transfer an inmate who is considered violent, a high escape risk, or who is classified as maximum custody out of the institution/facility for any outside medical treatment, the following precautions must be strictly adhered to:

A. The transfer must have the prior approval of the Warden or the Associate Warden.

B. The medical condition of the inmate must be serious and the need for outside medical care documented and presented to the Warden or the Associate Warden by the Medical Division staff.

C. The Associate Warden must be notified of the move and is responsible for assuring that adequate security measures are taken during the inmate's absence from the institution.

12. All of the procedures outlined in Administrative Regulation 407, Use of Handcuffs and Restraints, and Administrative Regulation 430, Transportation of Inmates will be strictly adhered to when transporting inmates.

13. Except for the provisions of AR 407, Use of Handcuffs and Restraints, as relates to pregnant inmates, at no time will any restraints be removed from the inmate unless prior approval is obtained from the Officer's supervisor.

432.02 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION OF INMATES

1. Emergency medical transfers will be made by institutional vehicle and officers, ground ambulance or air ambulance to the appropriate emergency room or trauma center. PREA related emergencies should comply with Administrative Regulation 421.

2. The Medical Director/designee will determine which 24-hour a day outside medical facilities will be utilized for emergency services and major surgical services.

3. Institutions/facilities will develop and maintain written plans for providing emergency medical care, including specifying method and route of transportation of inmates to and from the hospital from any location within the institution/facility.

4. The decision to transport by institutional vehicle, ground ambulance or air ambulance is the responsibility of the Medical Division staff. In the absence of an on-duty nurse, it will be the judgment of the Shift Supervisor. In all cases, the Shift Supervisor will be notified and is responsible to ensure the call is placed for appropriate medical transport.

5. The Shift Supervisor must notify the Warden or Associate Warden in the event an inmate who is considered violent, high escape risk, or who is classified to maximum custody requires emergency medical transport.

A. Medical staff may request the removal of restraints; however, final approval must be obtained from Shift Supervisor prior to any compliance with removal requests. The only exception is as referenced in AR 407, Use of Handcuffs and Restraints, which pertains to pregnant inmates.

B. Non-metal restraints will be used for MRI's.

6. The medical emergency must be verified by medical staff on duty. The transfer of the inmate will not be delayed pending this notification.

7. A Transportation Order Request form (DOC 2042) will be completed. The senior officer on duty may authorize the transport.

8. The Associate Warden must be notified of the move and is responsible for assuring that adequate security measures are taken during the inmate's absence from the institution.
9. Except for the provisions of AR 407, Use of Handcuffs and Restraints, relating to pregnant inmates, Custody Staff will remove restraints only in cases where medical professionals determine that removal is necessary, and the Shift Supervisor approves the removal.
10. The Shift Supervisor in consultation with the Warden/designee will determine the least restrictive restraints for pregnant inmates as listed in Administrative Regulation 407. Custody Staff will follow procedures in Administrative Regulations 407 when transporting the pregnant inmate; and when the pregnant inmate is away from the institution.

432.03 SELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The shift supervisor will assign an officer to be in charge of each transportation run and instruct the transportation officer/officers to be courteous, polite and respectful towards health-care staff at the community medical facility.
 - A. The assigned officer in charge must have had prior experience in both transportation and in security coverage of inmates during transports unless exception is granted by the Warden or designee.
 - B. Whenever possible, the officer in charge will hold at least the rank of Senior Correctional Officer.
2. Each officer or supervisor selected for medical transport detail must meet the following requirements:
 - A. Shall have completed at least one (1) year of custody experience and completed the NDOC's training academy.
 - B. Must have demonstrated good judgment and an understanding of written and verbal orders.
 - C. Shall be neat in appearance.
 - D. Shall be thoroughly familiar with hospital security and transportation procedures.
 - E. Shall be currently qualified on weapons that will be used during the transport.
3. All inmate transports from one location to another shall be controlled and supervised by staff at all times.
4. Guidelines for transporting inmates shall emphasize safety and shall be made available to all personnel involved in transporting inmates.

432.04 SECURITY PRECAUTIONS


1. Prior to an inmate's medical or hospital transport, the Department of Corrections shall determine if additional security measures need to be taken.
2. A face-to-photo identification of the inmate will be made by the officer in charge of the transport to ensure that the inmate or inmates being transported are the same person or persons as those scheduled for the medical or hospital appointment prior to initiating the transport.
 - A. Additional security precautions may be necessary for those inmates who are considered high escape risk, extremely dangerous or if other exigent circumstances exist.
 - B. If additional security precautions are deemed necessary, transport staff shall:
 - 1) Confer with the shift commander to make a determination of the type of action to be taken.
 - 2) The Warden or designee shall have final authority over additional security.
 - C. A chase vehicle may be utilized, at the discretion of the Warden or Associate Warden.
 - D. If a chase vehicle is utilized the transport officers, the chase vehicle officer will confer on the transport, the identification of the inmate, the anticipated route that will be taken, and the procedure for removing the inmate from the transport vehicle with the officer from the chase vehicle ensuring that civilians and others are not in close proximity to the transport vehicle, the transport officers and the inmate, excepting the hospital staff that are needed for the inmate's medical emergency.

APPLICABILITY

1. This procedure requires an Operational Procedure for all institutions.
2. This regulation requires an audit.

REFERENCES

ACA Standards, 4th edition 4-4348; 4-4349; 4-4189; 4-4190-191; 4-4192; 4-4206 and 4-4351


James Dzurenda, Director

5/25/17
Date