



ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Department of Nursing (NRS)
Maternal Child Health (MCH) Policies and Procedures

Policy No. 5303 Issue 1
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SECTION: PATIENT CARE

SUBJECT: INCARCERATED PATIENTS, CARE OF

APPROVED BY:

Nurse Manager

POLICY

Labor and Delivery (L&D) or Mother-Baby Unit (MBU) staff provide care for the incarcerated patient in a private room.

PROCEDURE

I. Incarcerated patients are brought to the triage area for evaluation

- A. The Registered Nurse (RN) calls the registration clerk to notify them of the patient's arrival
- B. The registration clerk comes to the triage area to register the patient

II. The RN places the incarcerated patient in a private triage room or private L&D Room

- A. Place a "No Visitors" sign on the outside of the door if the patient is placed in an L&D Room
- B. Remove the telephone from the room

III. Patient security and privacy measures

- A. Shackles are removed from the patient, by the officer in charge, on arrival to the L&D Unit
- B. The Officer remains in the room or outside the door while the inmate is in the unit
- C. The Officer steps outside the room when the patient is going to have a vaginal examination, unless the patient requests the officer at the bedside
- D. During delivery of the infant, the Officer remains outside the room until the delivery process is complete, unless the patient requests the officer at the bedside
- E. The infant is placed skin to skin with the mother for bonding purposes, unless contraindicated for safety reasons
- F. Notify the Officer when the mother and infant are ready to be transferred to the MBU
- G. Guidelines for patient visitors are found in Department of Nursing Policy 700.00, Incarcerated Patient – Special Considerations

IV. Obtain a Social Service consult

V. List the patient as a "prisoner" when ordering a diet in the computer

VI. Discharge From L&D or MBU

- A. Obtain discharge order from Practitioner
- B. Provide the patient with appropriate verbal discharge instructions
- C. Educate patient on medication uses and side effects, as ordered

- D. No medications and/or supplies are provided to the patient at the time of discharge
- E. Place the discharge instructions and a copy of the History and Physical (L&D) or Discharge Summary (MBU) in an envelope and give the envelope to the Officer

REFERENCES: **Administrative (ADM) Policy 690.11, Prisoners, Management of**
Administrative (ADM) Policy 690.12, Prisoners, Use of Restraints
Assembly Bill 732: County jails: Prisons: Incarcerated pregnant persons.
(2020, Oct 2). California Legislative Information.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB732
Department of Nursing (NRS) Policy 700.00, Incarcerated Patient - Special Considerations

DEFINITIONS: **NA**

ATTACHMENTS: **NA**

6/2/2025

APPROVAL DATE: **Sheryl Wooldridge, Clinical Director II**
Department/Service Director, Head or Manager

8/8/2025

Department of Women's Health Services
Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

8/28/2025

Nursing Standards Committee
Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

9/24/2025

Patient Safety and Quality Committee
Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

10/2/2025

Quality Management Committee
Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

10/23/2025

Medical Executive Committee
Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

1/13/2026

Board of Supervisors
Approved by the Governing Body

REPLACES: **Labor and Delivery Policy No. 246.00 Issue 6**

EFFECTIVE: **1/1/1999**

REVISED: **N/A**

REVIEWED: **N/A**