



**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

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**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.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=20192020](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB732)**  
                             **0AB732**  
                             **Department of Nursing (NRS) Policy 700.00, Incarcerated Patient - Special**  
                             **Considerations**

**DEFINITIONS:**        **NA**

**ATTACHMENTS:**     **NA**

<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>	<u>6/2/2025</u>	<u><b>Sheryl Wooldridge, Clinical Director II</b></u> Department/Service Director, Head or Manager
	<u>8/8/2025</u>	<u><b>Department of Women's Health Services</b></u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
	<u>8/28/2025</u>	<u><b>Nursing Standards Committee</b></u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
	<u>9/24/2025</u>	<u><b>Patient Safety and Quality Committee</b></u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
	<u>10/2/2025</u>	<u><b>Quality Management Committee</b></u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
	<u>10/23/2025</u>	<u><b>Medical Executive Committee</b></u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
	<u>1/13/2026</u>	<u><b>Board of Supervisors</b></u> 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**