Management of Patients who are Prisoners
Prisoner Patients *with* guards on inpatient units

- Nursing staff shall contact Safety and Security at 6-2658 and advise them when any prisoner patient with a guard (also known as a Forensic Officer) is on an inpatient unit.

- Hospital staff shall not provide phone access, deliver or send mail, direct visitors to the prisoner patient, or provide any information concerning the prisoner patient to anyone other than health care providers. Direct all inquiries to the Forensic Officer guarding the prisoner patient.

- Surgical and other medical instruments as well as kitchen utensils could be used as weapons. Hospital staff should account for all such items brought into the room by patient care staff. The Forensic Officer guarding the prisoner patient will also be involved in controlling and accounting for items brought into the prisoner patient room.

- If nursing or medical staff have a concern about a prisoner patient or the guard/Forensic Officer, the UIHC staff member should contact Safety and Security at 6-2658.

- For more information, see the policy [EOC-SECURITY-02.003](#)
If a prisoner patient is left at the hospital with no Forensic Officer, neither the UIHC Safety and Security Department nor any other hospital staff member will assume control of the prisoner patient.

- If not an emergent admission, the UIHC may deny admission to a prisoner patient not accompanied by a Forensic Officer.

- Due to federal requirements safeguarding patient information, hospital staff will not notify any agency of a pending discharge of an unguarded prisoner patient.

- Forensic Officers are not allowed to function as guards on the locked behavioral health units in the Pappajohn Pavilion. Prisoner Patients are admitted to the locked behavioral health units in the Pappajohn Pavilion only if they are judged safe without forensic restraints by the referral source and the accepting psychiatrist.

- If requested, Safety and Security staff will conduct a risk assessment of any unguarded prisoner patient in order to evaluate their potential violence. To request such an assessment, contact Safety and Security at 6-2658.

For more information, see the policy EOC-SECURITY-02.010
• Prisoner patients from the State Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities will wait in the DOC prisoner holding room until their designated appointment time.

• Prisoner patients who are non-Department of Corrections prisoners are not allowed to use the DOC prisoner holding room. When non-DOC prisoners arrive at an outpatient/procedural area, clinic staff shall direct the non-DOC prisoner patient and their guard(s) to an exam room as quickly as possible and should avoid having the non-DOC prisoner and guard(s) wait in the common waiting rooms within the clinic/procedure area.

• If nursing or medical staff have a concern about a prisoner patient or the guard, the UIHC staff member should contact Safety and Security at 6-2658.