

Emergency Vehicles



The following national guidelines are for the access of emergency vehicles and their crews into HM prisons and Young Offender Institutions when requested to attend via the emergency 999.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Code red is to be used when a prisoner presents with the following:

- Severe loss of blood
- Severe burns or scalds
- Suspected fracture.



Code Blue is to be used when a prisoner presents with the following:

- Chest pain
- Difficulty in breathing
- Unconscious
- Choking
- Fitting or concussed
- Severe allergic reaction
- Suspected stroke



ARRIVAL OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE

It is essential that the Ambulance emergency vehicle is given access into the establishment as quickly as is practicable without compromising security.

In the majority of cases emergency vehicles will be given immediate access into the Prison establishment without the need for searching.

Ambulance personnel will be required to secure all personal devices not used for clinical use in the emergency vehicle. Where personal devices are required, the Orderly Officer or on scene duty manager will confirm on arrival that the scene is secure. The risk is then mitigated, and ambulance crew should be permitted to take their devices onto the wing / location only when required to assist with their work. This should be risk assessed as part Local Security Strategies.

PROCESS DURING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Ambulance staff must be aware that patients are still subject to security procedures within the prison establishment, and should liaise with prison staff regarding how clinical care can be delivered, along with maintaining security, for example use of restraints.



Any ambulance unattended must be secure by locking it with the keys. The ambulance crew will need to keep the keys in their possession. On some occasions there will be a requirement to leave the engine running due to equipment on the vehicle. In circumstances such as these, the vehicle should still be locked, and the keys kept in the possession of the ambulance crew.

One member of the Prison staff must remain with the vehicle whilst the second escort must accompany the ambulance crew to the scene of the emergency and remain with them.



DEPARTURE OF THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE

A security risk assessment will be carried out prior to any escort leaving the establishment; this will identify the strength of escort and the level of restraint to be used by the escorting staff.



In most cases the patient will be accompanied in the rear of the ambulance by a minimum of two members of Prison staff. Depending on escort numbers and space in the rear of the vehicle, one member of prison staff may sit in the front of the ambulance vehicle.

In some cases, emergency vehicles will be allowed to leave the establishment without the need for a search of the vehicle to take place. However, circumstances may dictate that there is a need for emergency vehicles to be searched. Emergency vehicles will be searched in accordance with the Local Security Strategy unless the Duty Governor/ Orderly Officer instruct gate staff otherwise