Title: Possession and Handling of Firearms and Dangerous Weapons on Medical Center Property

Policy #: EOC-15

Purpose:
The Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is committed to providing for the safety and security of all Medical Center patients, staff and visitors. The carrying of firearms or other dangerous weapons on Medical Center property is prohibited unless in the performance of a person's official duty.

Scope:
The policy applies to all properties and facilities owned, occupied, or managed by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), including clinical, research, and administrative areas on the main campus and at off-site locations. In some cases, certain responsibilities under this policy are shared with or delegated to local managers and or outside parties such as landlords, tenants, or contractors. As applicable to particular locations, the policy also covers BIDMC patients, employees, clinical or research staff, and visitors present in these locations.

Policy Statement:

All persons carrying a firearm or other dangerous weapon on their person while on the Medical Center property are required to be properly licensed and, if not on official duty, to turn their weapon over to the BIDMC Department of Public Safety prior to attending to their hospital business.

A dangerous weapon is classified as anything that can be used to cause injury, pain, or harm to another person or themselves (i.e. firearm, knife, machete, brass knuckles, etc.)

Any person found to be or believed to be carrying a firearm or other dangerous weapon on BIDMC property, is to be reported immediately to Public Safety at 2911.

At no time should medical center staff approach such a person or request the dangerous weapon to be turned over to them.

In general, only law enforcement agents and authorized employees by means of their employment (e.g. armored car guards) are permitted to carry a dangerous weapon while on the medical center property. Exceptions may be granted by the Chief of Police or his/her designee**.**

1. **Out-Patients, Visitors, Guests and Others – Suspected or In Possession of a Dangerous Weapon**

Medical Center staff will immediately report the following information to Public Safety: (If there is any reservation or doubt, call Public Safety immediately for assistance.)

- Location of person suspected of carrying a weapon.
- Description of the person (physical characteristics, clothing, etc.)
- Type of weapon that the person is suspected of carrying.

BIDMC police officers will respond and investigate.

2. **While on medical center property, persons in possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon will be required to:**
   - **A.** Be escorted to the Public Safety Department by a BIDMC police officer, <u>if not an in-patient.</u>
   - **B.** Produce, in the case of a firearm, a valid Massachusetts firearms license to carry, or permit, or official police identification and badge.
   - **C.** Surrender their weapon to the BIDMC police officer, if not a law enforcement agent.
   - **D.** If the weapon is a firearm, it will be taken to the Public Safety office located in the Farr Building and cleared utilizing the Firearms Clearing Bullet Trap. The weapon will be unloaded in front of the Bullet Trap and secured with the chamber locked and opened to the rear for an automatic, or with the cylinder open for a revolver.

The police officer will secure the weapon in a locked firearm safe cabinet in the Public Safety office.

The police officer will file an incident report and record all applicable information on a property form. The item will be secured for safekeeping, until the person completes their business at the medical center.

3. **In-Patients-Suspected or In Possession of a Weapon**

In the event an in-patient enters Medical Center property and is suspected of carrying a firearm or dangerous weapon staff should call BIDMC Public Safety at 29111 immediately. In-patients who are receiving medical care and are found to be in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon should not be moved from their current location until a BIDMC police officer arrives and takes possession of the weapon. The officer will take possession of the weapon and secure it for safekeeping and complete a property form and incident report.

4. **In-Patients-Emergent Situations**

Medical Staff should only intervene and retrieve a weapon in the setting of a medical emergency (i.e. emergent surgery) when there is insufficient time for a BIDMC Police Officer to respond. This should only be done if safe to do so; if it

is unsafe to do so, then wait for a police officer. Whenever a weapon of any type is taken, it should be turned over to a BIDMC police officer ASAP for safe keeping as soon as possible after being taken.

5. Possession – Valid License/Permit Required

If any person carries a firearm or weapon requiring a license or permit and does not have a valid license or permit, or appears to be dangerous to themselves or others, the weapon will be confiscated by the BIDMC Department of Public Safety.

If the person refuses to give up the firearm, or refuses to surrender any other form of dangerous weapon, that person is subject to prosecution and arrest.

6. **In order for the owner to retrieve his/her firearm or weapon,**
   - The person will be required to produce a valid firearms license or permit (if applicable).
   - The police supervisor or officer will complete the retained property form and obtain the owner's signature.
   - The owner will immediately leave BIDMC property after the weapon is returned.

No Firearms will be released to anyone under the age of twenty-one. The firearm will only be returned to a valid holder of a Massachusetts Firearms License to Carry.

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