

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER  
JOHN DEMPSEY HOSPITAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL**

**SECTION: PATIENT CARE**

**NUMBER: 08-043**

**SUBJECT: PEPPER SPRAY OR FOAM:  
USE OF IN JDH/UCHS**

**PAGE: 1 of 2**

**PURPOSE:** To define the circumstances under which a UCONN Police Officers or Buildings and Grounds Patrol Officers may use Pepper Spray or Foam (*Oleoresin Capsicum Spray and Foam*)

**POLICY:** Pepper Spray or Foam will not be used for behavioral modifications, chemical restraint, or in place of appropriate de-escalation techniques.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. UCONN Police Officers and Building and Grounds Patrol Officers are the only staff who may carry Pepper Spray or Foam.
2. Clinical personnel who are present will have the authority to exercise their judgment and make decisions regarding the management of aggressive patients, including assessing the need to involve the UCONN Security or UConn Police Department. Only when the threat of imminent physical harm to staff may UCONN Police officers or Building and Grounds Patrol Officers act without direction from the clinical staff.
3. When a police officer or building and grounds patrol officer, based upon their experience and training has a reasonable belief that there is a need to defend himself or a third person from the use or imminent use of physical force, Connecticut statutes and the UCONN Police Department Use of Force Guidelines authorize the use of force, including pepper spray/foam, the police baton and other means corresponding to the force displayed by the individual.
4. Pepper Spray /Foam are used within JDH as a non-lethal option when UCONN Police Officers and UCONN Buildings and Grounds patrol officer are confronted with a physically aggressive person(s). This person may be preparing to inflict harm on him or herself, the UCONN Police Department member or another person.
5. Although pepper spray products have no long lasting side effects or after effects, extreme discretion must be exercised when using them inside the hospital. The Pepper Spray or Foam should be directed directly at the face of the individual to be contained.

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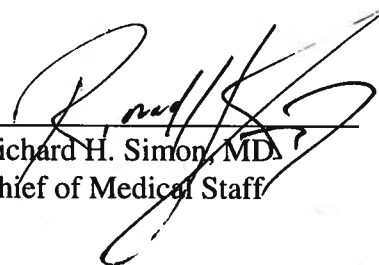
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**PAGE: 2 of 2**

6. After the use of Pepper Spray or Foam, clinical personnel must perform patient assessment and administer after care. (See attachment A for instructions)
7. In the event Pepper Spray or Foam is used in the clinical setting, the patient's medical record will contain documentation by clinical staff of the events leading to its use and care given to the patient.
8. The Hospital's Quality Improvement process addresses review, by both clinical, security and police, of incidents of the use of Pepper Spray or Foam.  
The UCONN Police Department or security member using the Pepper Spray or Foam will complete the appropriate Public Safety form. A copy will be provided to the clinical department manager and Risk Management office upon request. Police or Security management and Clinical management will review the incident and communicate any concerns to each other.



Andrew Agwunobi, MD, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer



Richard H. Simon, MD  
Chief of Medical Staff

Date Issued: 10/99

Date Reviewed: 5/00, 10/03, 7/05, 11/08

Date Revised: 7/11, 4/15, 3/21

# INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING - FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS USE ONLY.**

**CAUTION: STRONG IRRITANT-CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE**

**AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTORS ARE WEAPONS. CONTENTS MAY CAUSE SEVERE INJURY UNLESS USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS OR THE DIRECTIONS CONTAINED IN THE POLICE CHEMICAL AGENTS MANUAL PUBLISHED BY THE I.A.C.P. ALTHOUGH, WHEN PROPERLY USED, IT IS LESS LIKELY TO CAUSE INJURY THAN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, IT SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN SITUATIONS WHERE A WEAPON, IS JUSTIFIED AND NECESSARY. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

1. AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTORS MUST ALWAYS BE USED IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION. USE IN SHORT ONE SECOND BURSTS.
2. NEVER DISCHARGE UNIT INTO WIND.
3. NEVER USE IN CONFINED AREAS. USE ONLY WITH ADEQUATE AIR SUPPLY.
4. FOR BALLISTIC STREAM (NON-FOGGING) UNITS, THE SPRAY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH. FOR FOGGING UNITS, THE SPRAY SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT THE FACIAL AREA FROM A DISTANCE OF NOT LESS THAN 15 FEET.
5. EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS WHERE OFFICER IS UNDER ATTACK OR THREAT OF ATTACK WITH FIREARMS, KNIVES, FISTS, OR OTHER MEANS OF VIOLENCE. IN SUCH SITUATIONS THE AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR MAY NOT STOP THE ATTACK OR THREAT OF ATTACK AND THE OFFICER IS CAUTIONED TO USE OTHER AVAILABLE WEAPONS OR RETREAT TO A POINT OF SAFETY.
6. EXTREME CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED WHEN USING AN AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR AGAINST PERSONS WHO HAVE REDUCED SENSITIVITY TO PAIN. IF SUCH PERSONS ARE NOT DISABLED WITH AN AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR, THEY MAY REACT WITH VIOLENCE.
7. OFFICERS SHOULD ROUTINELY PRACTICE USE AND HANDLING OF THE AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR TO DEVELOP PROFICIENCY IN ITS USE IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE DANGEROUS OR WHICH REQUIRE RAPID HANDLING AND USE OF THE AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR. OFFICERS SHOULD ROUTINELY TEST FIRE THEIR AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR EVERY 3 MONTHS (OUTDOORS IN AN APPROPRIATE AND SAFE AREA) TO CHECK PRESSURIZATION AND SPRAY PATTERN.
8. THIS AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR IS NOT INTENDED FOR AND SHOULD NOT BE USED BY CIVILIANS. CIVILIANS ARE WARNED THAT POSSESSION AND/OR USE BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS IS PROHIBITED OR REGULATED BY LAW IN MANY JURISDICTIONS.
9. SPECIAL CARE SHOULD BE USED IN HANDLING AND CARRYING AN AEROSOL IRRITANT PROJECTOR TO AVOID RELEASING THE FORMULATION FROM THE CANISTER. SHOULD THE FORMULATION BE INADVERTENTLY RELEASED FROM THE CANISTER, FIRST AID PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY IN FULL DETAIL.

**FIRST AID**

1. REMOVE CONTACT LENSES AND CONTAMINATED CLOTHING.
2. FLUSH CONTAMINATED AREAS WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF COOL WATER OR DILUTED BAKING SODA SOLUTION AND EXPOSE TO FRESH AIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ARREST IS EFFECTED. CAUTION: FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS INSTRUCTION MAY RESULT IN SEVERE SKIN IRRITATION, SKIN DEPIGMENTATION OR OTHER SKIN INJURY.
3. DO NOT APPLY SALVES, CREAMS, OILS OR LOTIONS WHICH CAN TRAP THE IRRITANT AGENT CAUSING SKIN BLISTERS.
4. SEE PHYSICIAN IF IRRITATION PERSISTS.

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

THE USE OF INERT PLASTICS AND NON-CORROSIVE METALS MAKES MAINTENANCE, OTHER THAN THE OCCASIONAL BLOWING AWAY OF DUST OR LINT, UNNECESSARY.

**IMPORTANT: NEVER TAMPER WITH OR REMOVE THE ACTUATOR.**

DO NOT PUNCTURE CARTRIDGE OR PLACE WHERE TEMPERATURE MAY EXCEED 120°F.; CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE.

THE SHELF LIFE IS FOUR YEARS FROM THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE.