

SUBJECT: MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE FOR MENTALLY DISORDERED
INMATES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/01/2019

I. PURPOSE:

To ensure that mentally disordered inmates, especially those receiving inpatient mental health care, have access to medical and dental care.

These standards and responsibilities apply to both Department staff and Comprehensive Health Care Contractor (CHCC) staff.

II. POLICY:

Mentally disordered inmates, especially those who are housed in Crisis Stabilization Units, Transitional Care Units, and Corrections Mental Health Treatment Facilities shall be given access to physical health care services in accordance with their needs.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. Mentally disordered inmates who are receiving outpatient mental health care shall receive the same access to medical and dental services as non-mentally disordered (S-I) inmates, except that S-III inmates shall receive a periodic health assessment in accordance with HSB 15.03.04. A physical assessment must be done within a reasonable period (consistent with safe practice for the patient as determined by the psychiatrist and patient's treating physical health physician) of the patient being started on psychotropic medication. If the inmate has had a complete physical assessment within the past six months, another physical assessment need not be completed unless clinically indicated by current history and/or complaints. Thereafter, the periodic physical assessment is conducted annually. Required medical care including, but not limited to, periodic health assessments shall be performed by medical staff, e.g., non-psychiatric physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN).
- B. Mentally disordered inmates who are housed in isolation management rooms shall be considered as infirmary admissions and shall be given medical care in accordance with HSB 15.03.26.
- C. Mentally disordered patients who are housed in a TCU, CSU, or CMHTF shall have a comprehensive physical examination (including basic neurological examination) by a non-psychiatric physician or clinical associate. Appropriate lab tests will be ordered in accordance with HSB 15.05.19, Appendix: Testing Standards for Psychotropic Medication Usage, and in accordance with required lab tests for treatment of physical health (medical) conditions.

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- D. Upon admission to an inpatient unit, it is the responsibility of the RN Specialist member of the MDST to make sure that all problems pertinent to medical care and treatment listed on the DC4-730 *Problem List* in the outpatient record are transferred to the DC4-730 *Problem List* in the inpatient record.
- E. Coordination of medical and mental health services within the inpatient system is the responsibility of the inpatient Multi-Disciplinary Services Team (MDST). The Registered Nurse Specialist (RNS) assigned to the MDST is responsible to identify and document on the DC4-642M *Meeting Docket* any sick call, chronic illness or new medical issues. For new or emerging medical issues, the RNS is responsible to advise the psychologist, who will complete a referral to medical services, via DC4-529 *Staff Request/Referral* for consultation by a physical health care clinician. Completion of the DC4-529 *Staff Request/Referral* will be documented by the psychologist under "List any emerging medical issues requiring referral or coordination of care:" section of the DC4-642M *MDST Meeting Docket*.
- F. Discretion must be utilized when ordering lab tests that have recently been completed within the past six (6) months, especially when a patient is being readmitted to the CSU or CMHTF within several months of discharge or when a patient is being transferred from a CSU or CMHTF directly to a TCU.
- G. Periodic health assessments documented on the DC4-707A *Mental Health Physical Exam* shall be performed by a non-psychiatric physician or clinical associate every 90 days in CSUs and CMHTFs, and every 180 days in TCUs.
- H. Nursing Care shall be provided as outlined in the Nursing Manual.

IV. RELEVANT FORMS AND DOCUMENTS:

- A. HSB 15.03.04, *Periodic Screenings*
- B. HSB 15.03.06, *Medical Emergency Plans*
- C. HSB 15.05.19 Appendix, *Testing Standards for Psychotropic Medication Usage*
- D. *Nursing Manual*
- E. DC4-642M *Meeting Docket*
- F. DC4-529 *Staff Referral/Request*
- G. DC4-707A, *Mental Health Physical Exam*

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES

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Director of Health Services

Date

This Health Services Bulletin Supersedes:

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