

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Public Safety
Prison

SECTION: Care and Treatment of Patient -
Medication Administration

POLICY # TX II-3

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SUBJECT: Valid Orders and Treatment Protocols

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2017
SUPERCEDES DATE: January 2012

References

Related ACA Standards

**4th Edition Standards for adult Correctional
Institutions 4-4378**

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for valid orders and treatment protocols.

POLICY

Treatment administered by health care personnel other than a physician, dentist, or other licensed, independent provider must be pursuant to a valid written or verbal order from a person authorized by law to prescribe such service, drug, or device. Physician assistants and nurse practitioners may practice within the limits of State laws and regulations promulgated by the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners and pursuant to P-4 "Use of Physician Extenders."

PROCEDURE

1. Valid Orders
 - a. A valid order is a verbal or written directive entered into HERO for treatment from a provider in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Prisons and recorded in the offender's medical record.
 - b. A valid order directs health care personnel to carry out a specific treatment or medical procedure on a given offender.
 - c. Valid orders may be issued in the form of a verbal or telephone order to a licensed nurse and entered into HERO.
 - d. Verbal or telephone orders must be electronically signed and dated in HERO by the attending provider upon the next provider HERO queue review and within 24 business hours in an inpatient unit.
2. Nursing Protocols
 - a. A protocol is a precise and detailed plan for a regimen of therapy. In the DPS Prisons, a nursing protocol gives specific sequential instructions for diagnosing a complaint and treating it consistently throughout the system. These protocols guide the nurse through taking the history of the complaint and performing a physical assessment to determine an intervention(s) for the offender's comfort and safety.
 - b. Nursing protocols are developed by the Nursing Protocol Committee and approved by the Director of Nursing, the Deputy Medical Director, and the Chief of Health Services.
 - c. After the protocol(s) is reviewed, signed, and dated by the Chief of Health Services, the protocol, in its final approved form, may be implemented by the facility for the treatment of offenders
 - d. Each protocol shall be appropriate to the level of skill and preparation of the practitioner who implements it and must comply with the relevant State Nurse Practice Acts.

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3. Telephone Triage Protocols
 - a. Registered nurses may implement telephone triage protocols as specified in Health Services Policy TX I-8 "Telephone Triage."
 - b. Telephone protocols are approved by the Chief of Health Services.
4. Standing Orders
 - a. Standing orders are medical directives that may be implemented by the nurse in the absence of provider intervention under the auspices of the nursing protocols and the Chronic Disease Guidelines which have been signed by the Chief of Health Services.
 - b. Standing orders shall be the same in all outpatient facilities to maintain ~~and~~ a consistent standard of care for offenders in the handling and treatment of sick call complaints and disease processes.
 - c. Standing orders shall adhere to current formulary guidelines and shall be approved by the Chief of Health Services and Deputy Medical Director of Health Services after review by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, the Nursing Protocol Committee, and/or the Guidelines Committee.
 - d. Once approved and signed by the Chief of Health Services ~~Director~~, the standing order ~~will~~ shall be implemented.
 - e. Medication orders entered into HERO by nursing for offenders initially processing into DPS Prisons shall be deemed standing orders under the authority of a facility provider. Controlled Substance orders cannot be issued as standing orders and a provider shall be contacted to obtain a telephone order.



1/31/2017

Paula Y. Smith, MD, Chief of Health Services

Date

SOR: Director of Pharmacy
Deputy Medical Director
Director of Nursing