

# HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Public Safety  
Prisons

SECTION: Care and Treatment of Patient -  
Medication Administration

POLICY # TX II-16

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SUBJECT: Offender Release with Medications

SUPERCEDES/ORIGINAL DATE: April 2011

**EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2017**

REVISED DATE: July 2017

REVIEWED DATE: July 2017

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## References:

### Related ACA Standards

4<sup>th</sup> Edition Standards for adult Correctional Institutions  
4-4378

### PURPOSE

To outline staff practices on issuing medications to offenders upon release.

### POLICY

When a correctional facility releases an offender receiving prescription medications, Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) and/or Self Administration Medications (SAM), the unused portion of the filled prescription and a 30 day supply shall be given to the offender in the original containers.

### PROCEDURE

1. Facility administration shall inform nursing as soon as possible when an offender is scheduled for release.
2. Nursing shall notify a DPS Pharmacy as soon as possible and communicate the release date and chronic disease medications needed for the offender's release.
3. All overstock medications at the facility shall be sent with the offender upon release even if the quantity exceeds 30 plus days.
4. DPS Pharmacy Services shall dispense a 30-day supply of medications for release even if the stop date of the provider order is exceeded.
5. All Controlled Substance medication orders needed at time of release must be written on a prescription blank and given to the offender at release. Medication orders should not exceed 60 dosages. Previously dispensed DPS Pharmacy Services' controlled substance prescriptions shall not be issued to the offender upon release. Upon offender release, all DPS Pharmacy Services' unused controlled substance prescriptions shall be returned to a DPS Pharmacy with a DC-877.
6. During regular hours nurses shall provide the medications to the offender.
7. During times when the nurse is not available, the officer in charge (OIC) shall provide the medications to the offender.
8. NCDPS Pharmacy does not always dispense medications in child proof containers (i.e., unit dose or blister type packaging.) When an offender is released with medications in non-child proof containers, a facility employee shall counsel the offender regarding the responsibility to keep medications out of the reach of children and give the offender the Self Medication Program Instructions Patient Information Sheet. Patient education given shall be documented in the offender healthcare record.

10/30/2017

*Terri Catlett*

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Terri Catlett, Deputy Director of Health Services

Date

SOR: Director of Pharmacy