

	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CORRECTIONS ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/09/07	POLICY NO.: COR.10.1E.11
		SUPERSEDES (Policy No. & Date): COR.10D.40 (06/22/99)	
	SUBJECT: NURSING ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS		Page 1 of 3

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of nurse assessment protocols in correctional facilities.

2.0 REFERENCES AND DEFINITIONS

.1 References

- a. Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 26-14.6, Department of Public Safety; and Section 353C-2, Director of Public Safety, Powers and Duties.
- b. National Commission on Correctional Health Care, Standards for Health Services in Prisons and Jails, (2003).

.2 Definition

- a. Nursing Assessment Protocols: Written instructions or guidelines that specify steps to be taken when evaluating a patient's health status. Protocols include acceptable first-aid procedures for identification and care of ailments usually treated with non-prescription medications but may also include serious symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath or intoxication. Treatment with medications requiring a prescription is initiated only upon the written or verbal order of a licensed clinician.
- b. Standing Orders: Prescribed medication or treatment orders that specify the same course of treatment or medication for all patients suspected of having the same condition.

3.0 POLICY

- .1 Standing orders are not used in correctional institutions with the exception of preventive medicine practices such as immunizations that are in keeping with current community practice.
- .2 The Medical Director and the Clinical Services Branch Administrator (CSBA) shall develop standard, nursing assessment and treatment protocols. The protocols shall be authorized and dated by the Medical Director and the CSBA.

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- .3 The Medical Director and the CSBA shall conduct an annual review of all nursing protocols.
- .4 All protocols shall be based on standards for nursing practices and shall comply with the Hawaii State practice act.
- .5 There shall be documented evidence that new nursing staff receives orientation and training in nursing protocols and all nursing staff is oriented to new or revised protocols.

4.0 PROCEDURE

- .1 The original protocol manual with the Medical Director's approval of each protocol shall be kept at the Health Care Division central office. The CSBA shall ensure a copy of the manual is distributed to all clinical service sections.
- .2 Nurse assessments and interventions based on the nurse protocols shall be documented in the medical record using the S.O.A.P. method of charting. A responsible physician's authorized signature is not required for a medical record entry provided the nurse intervention does not exceed the nurse protocols authorized by the Medical Director and the CSBA.
- .3 Documentation of nurses' training in protocol use shall include:
 - a. Knowledge of the location of the authorized nursing protocol manual;
 - b. Evidence that all newly hired nurses are trained in nursing assessments according to the protocols;
 - c. Documented evidence that demonstrates the nurses' knowledge of the protocols and assessment skills;
 - d. Evidence of an annual review of skills; and
 - e. Evidence of retaining when new protocols are introduced or when protocols are revised.

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5.0 SCOPE

This policy and procedure applies to all correctional facilities' Clinical Services Section employees.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED:

W. S. 10/8/07
 Medical Director Date

Jane Jarvis 10/08/07
 Health Care Division Administrator Date

J. P. 10/4/07
 Deputy Director for Corrections Date

APPROVED:

Clayton J. ...
 Director

10/09/07

Date