1.0 PURPOSE

To ensure the safety of Health Care staff and inmates relative to the administration of medication to inmates housed in special holding/housing areas.

2.0 REFERENCES AND DEFINITIONS

.1 References

Hawaii Revised Statues, Section 26-14.6, Department of Public Safety; and Section 353C-2, Director of Public Safety, Powers and Duties.

.2 Definitions

Segregation Housing Areas – A housing area where inmates are placed in single cells separate from the general population for security or other reasons.

3.0 POLICY

1. Security shall notify health care nursing staff when an inmate is placed in segregation housing and shall confiscate all medications in the inmate’s possession turning them over to health care staff.

2. Medications shall be nurse administered to all inmates housed in segregation housing areas. With the exception of the following medications which shall be permitted to remain in the inmate’s possessing with a medical needs memo:
   a. NTG (nitroglycerin tabs)
   b. Rescue inhalers
   c. Eye drops, ointments
   d. Ear drops, ointments
   e. Nasal sprays
   f. Topical creams

3. Patients housed in segregation areas shall have their medications administered in such a way as to avoid any direct contact between nursing staff and the patient.
4.0 PROCEDURES

.1 Medications shall be distributed in segregation housing following the same
distribution time schedule used in the general population housing areas.

.2 Security shall accompany nursing staff from cell to cell during medication
administration.

.3 Medications shall be prepared by nursing staff and placed in a soufflé cup.

.4 The patient’s identity shall be verified and the patient shall be instructed to step
back a distance of more than an arm’s length from the pass through slot or cell
doors.

.5 The medication soufflé cup and a water cup, if necessary, shall be placed on the
pass through or cell cross bar ledge.

.6 The nurse shall step back and instruct the patient to take their medication. The
Inmate shall be instructed to face the nurse while taking the medication then
place the empty soufflé cup inside the water cup, return it to the ledge, and
step back to their prior location. In facilities where it is the practice to allow
inmates to keep their water cup, the nurse shall instruct the patient to return the
soufflé cup and to turn the water cup so the nurse can visually see that it is
empty. Security shall be notified of any inmate’s failure to adhere to the nurse’s
procedural requests.

.7 Nursing staff shall as much as possible, given sight constraints, observe
patients for placing their hands into or near their mouths or into their pockets
after taking their medications. Should this behavior occur the nurse shall notify
security of the patient’s actions.

.8 Health care staff shall retrieve the cup(s) and place them in the trash. Patients
shall not be permitted to retain any soufflé cups.

.9 Medications shall NEVER be dispensed into a patient’s hand while they are
housed in a segregated housing area.
.10 Patients in segregated housing taking scheduled drugs that cannot be crushed (consider contacting the provider to discuss changing the order to a crushable drug or ordering it in a liquid form) shall have the medication administered in a secured environment to allow the nurse to directly perform a mouth check to ensure swallowing of the medication. This requires the direct presence of security and possible shackling of the patient. As such, every effort shall be made to use alternative drugs or drug forms.

5.0 SCOPE

This policy and procedure applies to all correctional facilities and their assigned personnel.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL:

Medical Director

Health Care Division Administrator

Deputy Director for Corrections

APPROVED:

Director

NOT-CONFIDENTIAL