

CONTINUITY OF CARE DURING INCARCERATION

STANDARD NO(S):

NYSSA# 156

DATE:

December 31, 2009

REFER TO:

Jack S. Stenberg

I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish the Seneca County Correctional Facility's policy and procedure for the Continuity of Care of chronically ill inmates while incarcerated.

II. POLICY:

SCSO policy requires that continuity of care be provided for all inmates who are receiving health services. Continuity of care is measured from admission to the facility through discharge and includes referral to community resources when indicated and ordered by the facility physician.

III. DETAILS:

- A.** All newly admitted inmates will undergo a health receiving screening, which includes mental health and substance abuse history, completed within the required time frame. This health screening will include documentation of any acute or chronic health problems or injuries, and any medications or treatment that the inmate is currently receiving. The booking officer will complete the first part of the medical screening form, and notifies medical of any immediate medical needs or if individual is currently taking medication.
- B.** If the inmate has been incarcerated previously, the inactive health record will be retrieved and reviewed.
- C.** Current medications will be evaluated and continued as deemed appropriate by the facility physician.
- D.** A complete health evaluation will be performed as soon as appropriate but not longer than 14 days after admission. Inmates with significant health care needs will have a health evaluation completed as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.

- E.** Every effort will be made to obtain health information and records from previous health care providers, with consent of the inmate, when this information is relevant for follow up care and the facility physician orders it.
- F.** Upon transfer to another facility or release from incarceration, a medical discharge summary of the inmate's current condition, medications and treatment plan will be forwarded to the receiving facility, in a sealed envelope to maintain confidentiality, or will be sent with the inmate for follow up with a community provider.
- G.** When inmates are sent out of the facility for emergency or specialty treatment, written information regarding the inmate's current medical status and treatment accompany the inmate. Upon return to the facility, information regarding what treatment, recommendations and follow up care will be reviewed by the responsible physician.
- H.** Chronic care begins with the initial receiving health screening, followed by the health medical evaluation and with each encounter by the medical staff. Appropriate assessments are completed as ordered. The facility physician will re-evaluate at three months unless not stable or if the inmate has an additional need prior to the expiration of the three month timetable.

Note: Inmates with HIV and or High Risk pregnancies will be referred to the appropriate outside medical provider.