

INMATES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

STANDARD NO(S):

NYSSA# 113, 155, 156

DATE:

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REFER TO:

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I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish the Seneca County Correctional Facility's policy on communication between Medical/Mental Health services staff and corrections personnel regarding special needs patients/inmates.

II. POLICY:

Seneca County Correctional Facility policy requires notification of correctional personnel by medical or mental health services staff whenever an inmate has a significant medical or mental health illness or developmental disabilities that will affect the inmate's housing, program assignment, imposition of disciplinary sanctions, or transfer to another institution.

In cases of identified special needs inmates, where action is initiated by correctional personnel, consultation will be made with medical or mental health services staff before any changes are implemented. In an emergency, correctional personnel may take action immediately to protect the inmate, staff or others.

Included among inmates who have special needs are the following:

1. The chronically ill
2. Inmates with serious communicable diseases
3. The physically disabled
4. Pregnant inmates
5. Frail or elderly inmates
6. The terminally ill
7. Inmates with serious mental health needs
8. The developmentally disabled inmate

Typical cases where such medical/correctional consultation is required include but are not limited to:

1. Housing assignment
2. Program assignments
3. Disciplinary segregation

4. Medical segregation
5. Intra-system transfer
6. Hospitalized inmates
7. Work assignment limitations
8. Use of restraints (chemical/stun guns included)

III. DETAILS:

- A.** Upon arrival at the facility, the facility nurse will assess and determine whether an inmate meets the criteria of special needs. If an inmate meets the criteria, the individual will be recommended for the housing unit best equipped to meet his special needs.
- B.** Once assigned to a housing unit, the nurse will arrange for follow-up evaluation by the physician. The findings will be communicated to correctional personnel to provide housing, work assignment and program participation appropriate for the inmate.
- C.** The status of Special Needs Inmates should be continuous and ongoing. He/she will be referred to either medical or mental health sick call when necessary.
- D.** Prior to transfer to another facility, a Transfer Summary will be completed to identify special requirements that will need to be considered while in transit and upon arrival at the inmates destination.