

MEDICAL AUTONOMY

STANDARD NO(S):

NYSSA# 107

DATE:

December 31, 2009

REFER TO:

Jack S. Stenberg

I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish the Seneca County Correctional Facility policy and guidelines for the autonomy of the Medical department of the facility.

II. POLICY:

All medical, psychiatric and dental matters involving medical judgment are the sole province of the responsible physician or dentist. The facility nurse when assessing a medical problem confers with the facility physician for further action.

III. DETAILS:

- A. Judgments regarding an inmate's health care needs will rest with the facility's physician, who is licensed to practice in the State of New York.
- B. Matters of medical or psychiatric judgment will be the sole province of the responsible physician and/or designees to assure that medical autonomy is maintained and that the health care needs of inmates remain the most important consideration.
- C. Health care services provided to inmates are the sole responsibility of qualified health services staff and are not to be made or overruled by correctional staff.
- D. Security regulations that apply to all correctional staff in the facility will also apply to all health services staff.
- E. If a medical order by a physician is in direct conflict with a security directive, the physician's medical order will be carried out, followed by administrative review, unless the situation is of a nature that allows administrative review prior to execution of the medical order without compromising the health or safety of the inmate.

- F.** Conflicts that may arise between the health service staff and correctional staff will be attempted to be resolved between the nurse and the Chief Administrative Officer.
- G.** If resolution is not attainable, the matter will be further reviewed with involvement of the facility physician, Chief Administrative Officer and Sheriff.