

State of Iowa Department of Corrections Policy and Procedures

Policy Number: HSP-401

Applicability: Institution

Policy Code: Public Access

Iowa Code Reference: N/A

Chapter 6: Health Services

Sub Chapter: Pharmacy

Related DOC Policies: N/A

Administrative Code Reference: N/A

Subject: Administrative Organization

ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-43(M)

Responsibility: Dr. Michael Riley, William Yohe

Effective Date: January 2025

Authority:

1. PURPOSE

To describe pharmacy service within the Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC).

2. POLICY

It is the policy of the IDOC that procedures for the acquisition, storage, and distribution of pharmaceuticals within the IDOC shall be in compliance with state and federal regulations.

3. DEFINITIONS - As used in this document:

- A. Drug Product Selection – The act of selecting the source of supply of a drug product in a specified dosage form.
- B. Chemical (Pharmaceutical) Equivalents – Those multiple source drug products which contain essentially identical amounts of the identical active ingredients in identical dosage forms, and which meet existing physical-chemical standards in the official compendium, the USP-NF.
- C. Therapeutic Equivalents – Those chemical equivalents which, when administered in therapeutically equivalent amounts, will provide the same therapeutic effects, as measured by the control of a symptom of disease.

- D. Generic Substitution – The act of dispensing a different brand or an unbranded drug product for the drug product prescribed (i.e., chemically the exact same drug entity in the same dosage form, but distributed by different companies). Examples: Generic ibuprofen for brand name Motrin; Generic Ziprasidone for brand name Geodon.
- E. Pharmaceutical Alternates – Drug products which contain the same therapeutic moiety but differ in the salt or ester of that moiety, or dosage form, or strength, and are administered by the same route. Examples: Amitriptyline 100mg and Amitriptyline 50mg; Thiothixene Concentrate. and Thiothixene Capsules; or Hydroxyzine HCL and Hydroxyzine Pamoate.
- F. Therapeutic Alternates – Drug products containing different therapeutic moieties but which are of the same pharmacological and/or therapeutic class that can be expected to have similar therapeutic effects when administered to patients in the therapeutically equivalent doses. Example: Ranitidine and Famotidine.
- G. Therapeutic Substitution – The act of dispensing a therapeutic alternate for the drug product described. Examples: Hydrochlorothiazide for Chlorothiazide; Prednisone for Methylprednisolone.
- H. Psychotropic Medication – Any drug exerting an effect upon the mind as manifested by verbal or other behavior as well as observed emotions or mood Examples: antidepressant medications, anti-anxiety medications, anti-psychotic medications.
- I. Anti-psychotic Medication – Any drug that favorably modifies psychotic symptoms.
- J. Clinical Practice Guideline – Standardized, evidence-based, structured approach to the management of a specific disease state, designed to provide the most economical and clinically effective screening, diagnosis, and pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management of the majority of patients afflicted with that disease. Non-pharmacologic measures are defined as including patient education, lifestyle modifications, diet, exercise, smoking cessation, and changes in alcohol consumption.
- K. Evidence-based Medicine – Medical practice based on rigorous methodological assessment, evaluation, and interpretation of published clinical trials and other medical literature.

4. PROCEDURES

Pharmaceutical services for the Iowa Department of Corrections will be provided by one of two pharmacies in the state: DOC Central Pharmacy in Mitchellville, IA and Iowa Medical and Classification Center Pharmacy in Coralville, IA. Medications will be dispensed pursuant to **IAC 657-15**. Iowa DOC Pharmacies will maintain active Iowa Board of Pharmacy, DEA and State CSA licenses under the direction of the Pharmacist in Charge. All correctional institutions served by IDOC pharmacies will maintain a state CSA license.

Each institution shall maintain procedures for the receipt of pharmaceutical goods and services from the designated pharmacy.