

State of Iowa Department of Corrections

Policy and Procedures

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Chapter 10: Forensic Psychiatric Hospital

Sub Chapter: Treatment

Related DOC Policies: NA

Administrative Code Reference: NA

Subject: Forced Medication Protocol

ACA Standards: NA

PREA Standards: NA

Responsibility: Warden Mike Heinricy, Dr. Theresa Clemmons

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Authority:

1. PURPOSE

To provide clarity on the process in providing forced medications to patients in the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital.

2. POLICY

IMCC serves as the State of Iowa's Forensic Psychiatric Hospital for persons displaying evidence of mental illness and requiring diagnostic services and/or treatment in a secure setting. This protocol is intended to be a guideline to assist nursing in the steps to follow when a patient that has orders for treatment on the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital refuses medications.

3. DEFINITIONS - As used in this document:

Forced Injections for:

- A. Court orders for treatment of mental illness in restoration, competency or insanity cases to facilitate the evaluations.
- B. Civil Commitment, refusing medication for treatment as ordered.
- C. Emergent treatment as demonstrated by the following:
 - 1. Demonstrate symptoms of serious mental illness.
 - 2. Have a high likelihood of serious harm to self or others.
 - 3. Be unable to perform basic life sustaining functions such as eating, drinking, or display severe deterioration in routine functioning as a result of the serious mental illness.
 - 4. Be so disruptive to the environment and safety of a given area that other offenders cannot escape from emotional hardship from being exposed to the disruption.
 - 5. Have documentation of offender's refusal of medication in a nursing encounter in their electronic medical record.

4. PROCEDURES

- A. Contact the psychiatrist that is covering the unit during the weekdays, or contact the on-call psychiatrist if a night or on the weekend. Please be ready with the following information:
 - 1. Patient name and identification number
 - 2. Patient current diagnosis
 - 3. Patient's medications list
 - 4. Recent vitals
 - 5. Time medication was offered and refused

6. A brief summary of any negotiation or interventions you or any other staff have tried up to this point, for how long this was tried
 7. A brief summary of the patient's current presentation and status change of patient (seclusion, restraints) may be needed.
- B. Once determined and an order to proceed with the injection is given by the psychiatrist, the following steps should be taken by nursing:
1. Immediately notify shift supervisor of the order to force the injection and a brief summary of techniques and negotiations done as well as patient's demeanour so that they prepare their team and start any final negotiations (if felt viable) based upon their current presentation and level of danger.
 2. Discuss with unit security of the orders so that they may prepare and continue their unit log and documentation process.
- C. Once shift supervisor is notified and team is to be prepared, continue to note the following:
1. Timeline of any further notation or discussions, negotiations or interventions that have been tried or other staff tried to avoid injection.
 2. Time security team does arrive on the unit and begins any final attempts at compliance with oral medications (if felt viable).
 3. Continue monitoring and communication with shift supervisor updating on any acute changes in patient's demeanour or mental health status or physical state.
 4. Communication of any acute changes in situation with previously contacted psychiatrist to adjust orders if needed.
- D. Injection to be administered if negotiations fail.
1. Note exact time of the injection, medication given, dose, and site of injection,
 2. Reason for forced injection,
 3. Document contact(s) with psychiatrist,

4. Note any extra security precautions taken during the event such as negotiation, use of force and what type of force, or the need for any seclusion or restraints,
 5. Note any injuries or problems that occurred with the patient or any injury or harm to staff during the incident,
 6. Document effectiveness of medication given, any side effects, and offender condition.
 7. Complete Involuntary Medication Form in ICONMed.
- E. Once completed, please contact the psychiatrist that was involved with the initial order and update him/her on the above event and the outcome. At this time, it is also appropriate to review if seclusion or restraints are used or not and to adjust any of the original orders depending upon outcome from above.
- F. It should be noted that the expectation of this process is that length of time from contact of psychiatrist and shift supervisor until treatment should be no more than **ONE HOUR**.
- G. If at **ONE HOUR** the process is not completed, the contacted psychiatrist should be notified and updated of the reason(s) for delay to the interventions and review for further interventions or approaches that may be needed to accomplish the treatment safely and effectively.