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Medication Pass H-1400

Many incarcerated persons are prescribed medications by a doctor or psychiatrist while in custody. It is important that incarcerated persons either take or properly refuse medications and are prevented from stockpiling medications.

Incarcerated persons who do not take their prescribed medication as intended can become agitated, disruptive, combative with other incarcerated persons or staff, or experience serious medical problems.

Some incarcerated persons attempt to circumvent the intended prescription by stockpiling or redistributing or selling medication to other incarcerated persons. This can lead to dangerous overdoses or incarcerated persons being harmed by medications that were not prescribed for them.

For these reasons, medical and custody staff must work as a team to ensure the proper administration of medications. To facilitate this process, it is important to know the responsibilities of each staff member during medication pass.

Please review **DBPPM H-1400** to ensure a complete understanding of staff responsibilities during medication pass.

MEDICAL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

During a medication pass, medical staff will:

- Check the incarcerated person's wristband to confirm their identity.
- Administer the medication(s).
- If appropriate for the type of medication being administered, instruct the incarcerated person to swallow it in the presence of custody and medical staff.

CUSTODY STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

During a medication pass, custody staff will:

- Remain in the immediate presence of the medical staff to provide security and supervise the incarcerated persons receiving or waiting to receive medication.
- **Conduct a visual inspection of the incarcerated person's mouth to ensure the incarcerated person swallowed any orally administered medication.**

Directive A-1 states that once an incarcerated person has been given their medication, they will either take it and submit to the officer's visual inspection or return the medication to the nurse which is considered a medical refusal.

Any incarcerated person found to be stockpiling medication, attempting to deceive staff regarding the ingestion of their medications, providing their medication to another incarcerated person, or taking another incarcerated person's medication shall be subject to discipline.

All such instances shall be documented in the JMS with the appropriate JMS code(s) (Generally SR11).

A referral to **medical and behavioral health** staff shall be made for such instances and will be documented in the relevant JMS incident.