

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: MEDICATION PASS

H-1400

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
August 8, 2013	04-01-2026	08-08-2013	07-11-2024

APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE: KM Correctional Medicine Policy 709

POLICY

In keeping with its mission to protect the welfare of incarcerated persons, the Detention Bureau recognizes the need to ensure that incarcerated people receive and take medication as prescribed. The following policy has been established to make certain that incarcerated people are properly identified prior to receiving medication, that incarcerated people either take or properly refuse medication, and to prevent incarcerated people from stockpiling medications. This policy does not apply to self administered medications.

Procedure A: Medication Pass

When conducting medication pass, custody staff and medical staff will work together to ensure the proper administration of medications.

Medical staff will:

- Confirm the identity of each incarcerated person receiving medication by checking the incarcerated person's wristband prior to giving any medication to the incarcerated person.
- Administer the proper medication.
- If appropriate for the medication being administered, instruct the incarcerated person to swallow it while still in the presence of custody and medical staff.

Custody Staff will:

- Remain in the immediate presence of the Medical Staff who is passing medications to provide security and supervise the incarcerated persons receiving or waiting to receive medication.

- Once an incarcerated person has put an orally administered medication in their mouth and swallowed, conduct a visual inspection of the incarcerated person's mouth to ensure the incarcerated person swallowed the medication.

DIRECTIVE A-1

Once an incarcerated person has been given a medication that the medical staff indicates must be taken immediately, the incarcerated person will either take the medication and submit to the officer's visual inspection or return the medication to the nurse. If the incarcerated person returns the medication to the nurse, it will be considered a medical refusal (see DBPPM H-200).