
Psychotropic Medications

1006.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures governing the use of voluntary and involuntary psychotropic medications. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff.

1006.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 § 1439;
- Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 209, 210 & 885.

1006.3 POLICY

Psychotropic medication shall be prescribed only when clinically indicated and as one facet of a program of therapy.

1006.4 PRESCRIPTIONS

A health care provider's written and verbal orders for psychotropic medication in the prescribed dosages shall be appropriate to the youth's need.

A length of time shall be determined for medications to be ordered and administered before re-evaluation by a health care provider.

1006.5 CONTINUED CARE

On-site health care staff shall make arrangements for youth who are prescribed psychotropic medication in the community to be able to continue on their medication when clinically indicated pending verification in a timely manner by a health care provider.

Uninterrupted continuation on psychotropic medication shall be addressed in pre-release planning and prior to transfer to another facility or program including authorization for transfer of prescriptions.

1006.6 REVIEW

There shall be a regular clinical/administrative review of utilization patterns for all psychotropic medications, including every emergency situation.

1006.7 CONSENT

Psychotropic medication shall not be administered to a youth, absent an emergency, unless informed consent has been given by the parent/legal guardian or the court.

- (a) Youth shall be informed of the expected benefits, potential side effects and alternatives to psychotropic medications.
- (b) Absent an emergency, youth may refuse psychotropic medication without disciplinary consequences.

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1006.8 INVOLUNTARY MEDICATION

Youth found by a health care provider to be an imminent danger to themselves or others by reason of a mental disorder may be involuntarily given psychotropic medication immediately for the preservation of life or the prevention of serious bodily harm, and when there is insufficient time to obtain consent from the parent/legal guardian or court before the threatened harm would occur. It is not necessary for harm to take place or become unavoidable prior to initiating treatment. All involuntary administrations of psychotropic medications shall be documented and reviewed by the Chief Probation Officer or designee and health administrator.

An assessment and diagnosis shall support the administration of psychotropic medication. The administration of psychotropic medication is not allowed for coercion, discipline, convenience or retaliation.

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