



## Health Care Services

# Vendor Pharmacy Service

### DISCUSSION:

Diamond Pharmacy is the vendor the Department of Corrections has contracted with to provide pharmacy services.

The DOC has implemented a negative formulary list. Medications on the negative formulary list must have prior authorization before it is dispensed from the pharmacy. The DOC and Diamond Pharmacy have also developed a Preferred Drug List based upon clinical efficacy and favorable medical-economic cost benefit ratio.

The DOC has monthly pharmacy and therapeutic meetings with vendor staff. These meetings have assisted in decreasing costs by reviewing ordering patterns and educating the ordering practitioners on the costs of certain medications. These joint meetings will lead to the development of a new pharmacy procedures manual.

Medication formularies help to control costs by setting a ceiling on price, using generics unless contraindicated, and purchasing with volume discounts.

Pharmaceuticals that are experimental, investigational or are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in general marketing, or are otherwise not generally recognized as suitable or appropriate for treatment of the diagnosed medical condition, are not permitted to be used.

The vendor provides oversight of the pharmacy operation through quarterly visits to each institution by a registered pharmacist to review operations.

Psychotropic medications are now primarily administered through stock medications at each site.

Some over-the-counter medications are available for the inmate population in the commissary.

### PROCESS:

1. A physician or physician's assistant writes an order for medication.
2. The order is faxed to the pharmacy. There is a back-up local area pharmacy for orders needed immediately. Institutions receive deliveries six days per week.
3. Medications are received within 72 hours in a multi-dose system.
4. Nursing staff compares medications sent with the order to ensure that correct medication and dosage are received.
5. Nursing staff administers the medication to inmates either through direct observation or self-medication.
6. Medication dispensing or administration errors are monitored closely through our QI program.
7. Chronic Disease Management Guidelines have been jointly developed by the DOC, Prison Health Services, Inc; MHM Correctional Services; and Diamond Pharmacy. Preferred drugs are specified within the guidelines.

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"Our mission is to protect the public by confining persons committed to our custody in safe, secure facilities, and to provide opportunities for inmates to acquire the skills and values necessary to become productive law-abiding citizens; while respecting the rights of crime victims."