

## Medical Watch (Title 15, Section 1402)

### 727.1 PURPOSE:

To provide a guideline for the implementation of a Medical Watch for youth with significant health concerns and serves as an additional assessment tool to ensure the safety, medical, and mental health well-being of youth in Juvenile Detention and Assessment Centers (JDACs) and Treatment Facilities (TFs).

### 727.2 DEFINITIONS:

Medical Watch: A reoccurring face-to-face medical assessment, the frequency of such is determined by the Correctional Nurse or the physician/provider, designed to assess a youth with specific medical illnesses/conditions which may have implications for special health services conducted by designated medical staff.

Significant Health Concerns: A condition that has the potential to have a negative response if not evaluated, treated, and monitored. Youth in this category may have a chronic illness such as diabetes or an acute and/or communicable illness such as chicken pox. Disabled youth that require assistive devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, and canes also fall into this category. This will also include but is not limited to pregnant, terminally ill, and developmentally disabled youth.

Health Kardex: The Health Kardex is a confidential two-sided patient health form that must be maintained in the Health Binder on the living unit. The Health Kardex must accompany youth to all onsite appointments with the physician/provider.

### 727.3 GUIDELINES:

- A. Specific health care conditions requiring a Medical Watch may be identified during the intake assessment process, sick call/rounds processes, or as a result of a medical emergency.
- B. A Medical Watch is a medical assessment tool only, it shall not be a substitute for any other form of detention supervision.
- C. The clinical decisions regarding the treatment of the youth are the sole responsibility of licensed health care professionals operating within the scope of their license and within facility policy defining health care services.
- D. A Medical Watch shall only be ordered and conducted by authorized medical personnel.
- E. Licensed Vocational Nurses are not authorized to order or discontinue a Medical Watch.

### 727.4 RESPONSIBILITIES:

- I. Physician/Provider:
  - A. Order a Medical Watch as deemed necessary and include:

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1. The reason the youth is placed on watch.
  2. The frequency of evaluations.
  3. The duration of the watch.
- B. Discontinue Medical Watches when deemed appropriate.
- C. Upon the completion of a Medical watch, review Medical Watch documentation.
- II. Supervising Correctional Nurse II/Designee:
- A. Refer to I. A. 1-3.
  - B. Ensure Medical Watches are implemented accordingly.
  - C. Initiate a medical treatment plan for medical conditions which meet the criteria for a plan, pursuant to existing medical procedures.
  - D. May discontinue a Medical Watch initiated by Correctional Nurses when deemed appropriate.
- III. Correctional Nurse I/II/ Licensed Vocational Nurse I/II:
- A. Correctional Nurses may order a Medical Watch.
    1. Include the reason, frequency, and duration of the watch.
  - B. Correctional Nurses may discontinue a Medical Watch initiated by a Correctional Nurse when deemed necessary.
  - C. Activate the "Medical Watch" flag in the electronic health record.
  - D. Update Special Instructions located on the Overview screen in Caseload Explorer (CE) by selecting the "Med Watch" option and noting the reason, assessment frequency, and duration.
  - E. Inform the Watch Commander, unit staff, and youth when initiating a Medical Watch.
    1. Provide unit staff medical instruction sheets for conditions that require additional health education.
  - F. Document the start and stop time and frequency on the Medical Watch section of the Health Kardex.
  - G. Ensure ongoing documentation is completed to include:
    1. Vital signs
    2. Individual Assessment per ordered frequency.
  - H. Immediately report any abnormal findings discovered during the assessment to the physician/provider.
  - I. Upon the completion of the Medical Watch, submit Medical Watch documentation to the physician/provider for review.
- IV. Watch Commander/Designee:

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- A. Work collaboratively with medical staff to ensure youth on a Medical Watch are in the most appropriate, least restrictive housing and program settings considering their individual medical needs.
- V. Probation Corrections Officers:
  - A. Maintain an awareness of all youth under their care who have been placed on Medical Watch, review paperwork associated with the Medical Watch (i.e., Health Kardex, medical instruction sheets, etc), and request clarification from medical staff if necessary.