

## **Inmate Health Protocol**

### **Self-Medication- Stored by Security (SM-SS)**

1. The Department of Corrections will maintain a Self-Medication Stored-by-Security (SM-SS) program at appropriate facilities to allow prisoners who are medically approved to do so to self-administer their own medication that is stored by security staff. Participation in this program is a privilege that comes with responsibilities to take the medication as directed, to share it with no other person, and to return the remaining supply of medication to the security staff immediately after administration. Any prisoner who misuses this program may be removed from the Self-Medication Stored by Security program and/or disciplined. This program may be used when no medical staff is present in the facility.
2. Medication containers may be blister cards, inhalers, bottles, etc., as dispensed from the pharmacy with the appropriate labeling and clearly stamped "SM-SS." In addition, nurses may give the prisoner a medication divi-dose container, which the prisoner can use to store 1-2 day's worth of medication.
3. Prisoners must be approved by the health care practitioner to self-administer prescription medication. The approval will be designated on the practitioner's prescription for the medication in the medical record. A stamp is available for use to help structure the documentation of medication order in the medical record. This may be used for both practitioner-written orders as well as oral orders.
4. The IHCO shall not approve a prisoner to participate in this self-medication program if the superintendent or designee has made a determination that security constraints prohibit that particular prisoner or all prisoners from participating in this self-medication program. Security staff shall notify the IHCO in writing of any such determinations. The IHCO will not have to routinely clear authorization for self-medication through security.
5. The medication container issued by the pharmacy or a health care practitioner will be clearly marked "SM-SS."
6. The prisoner will initially have his medication property issued to him by the medical staff. The prisoner will sign on the Medication Administration Chart that he/she has received the medication, knows how to take the medication, and will report any significant side effects to medical staff.
7. The medical staff will place the prisoner's medication property in a location designated by the Superintendent for security staff to pick up and store for the prisoner.
8. Medications which are not available as SM-SS are:

tricyclic antidepressants, controlled substances, and injectables (except insulin for a prisoner who is competent to perform a glucometer, self-administer the insulin, and log the results, if the IHCO approves of this ).

9. The medication will be stored in a secure place approved by the Superintendent. At the regularly scheduled institution medication times, the prisoners will be offered access to their medication property by the security staff.
10. In facilities where the physical layout and security staffing make it reasonable to allow for security-stored self-medication for "PRN" (take as needed) medications, then the practitioner may utilize this protocol, but in other facilities this practice should be avoided. A prisoner is to take PRN medication based upon his/her own assessment that he/she is following the prescribing practitioner's guidelines. Medical staff will monitor the use of PRN medications and the prescribing practitioner will review any apparent misuse.
11. A prisoner who is participating in the SM-SS program will bring a cup of water to the location of the medication property. The officer will identify the prisoner and hand him or her the medication property labeled with the prisoner's name. The prisoner will then read the label(s) and take the medication, self-administering it according to the instructions on the label. The medication property will then be returned to the officer. The officer shall observe the prisoner to see if he or she swallows the medication.
12. When the prisoner has a one-week supply of medication remaining of a 30-day prescription, he/she will return one of the two peel-off labels to medical staff so that a new supply can be ordered if the medication is to be continued. The peel-off label will be affixed to a 4-part prescription sheet and sent to pharmacy for reordering of the medication.
13. When a medication container is empty, the prisoner shall return the container to the medical section. If the medication is to be continued, a new container will be distributed at that time.
14. If there are no refills left and the medication is to be continued, the prisoner must make an appointment with the practitioner.
15. If an officer has reason to believe that a prisoner is not taking his or her medication or is taking it improperly, the officer shall notify medical staff in writing.