



ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIVISION STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Procedure No.: ACCD 4.5.1900	Subject: NURSING ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS
Reference: DOC 4.5.19; 53-1-203 MCA	Page 1 of 2
Effective Date: 10/21/14	Revision Dates:
Signature / Title: /s/ Pam Bunke, ACCD Administrator	

I. DIVISION DIRECTIVE:

Adult Community Corrections Division facilities will develop nursing assessment protocols that will guide offender health screenings and assessment, initiate treatment of identified conditions, and ensure appropriate referral to a physician, dentist, or mid-level practitioner for further evaluation and treatment.

II. DEFINITIONS:

ACCD-Adult Community Corrections Division Facility – Division facilities include the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center (MASC); Treasure State Correctional Training Center (TSCTC); and the contracted facilities of Prerelease Centers (PRC), Sanction Treatment Assessment Revocation & Transition (START), Warm Springs Addiction Treatment and Change Program (WATCH), Connections Corrections Program (CCP), Passages Alcohol and Drug Treatment (Passages ADT), Passages Assessment Sanction & Revocation Center (Passages ASRC), NEXUS Correctional Treatment Center (NEXUS), and Elkhorn Treatment Center (Elkhorn).

CSD-Clinical Services Division – The Department’s division that administers health care services for adult and youth offenders.

Department – the Montana Department of Corrections.

Health Care Unit – Provides the full complement of facility health care services that range from infirmary care to sick call, and include appropriate referrals.

Nursing Assessment Protocols – Written instructions outlining the steps for offender health status evaluation and intervention.

Standing Orders – Written orders that specify the same treatment and prescription drug course for each patient suspected of a given condition.

III. PROCEDURES:

- A. Facility health care units will establish nursing assessment protocols that outline the steps for the assessment, treatment, and monitoring of specific offender health conditions.
- B. The nursing administrator and on-site medical provider will be responsible for the annual review and development of the nursing protocols. The nursing assessment protocols must have a signed declaration to indicate they have been reviewed and approved by the nursing administrator and on-site medical provider. When protocols are changed, they are to be individually dated and signed by the nursing administrator and on-site medical provider

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- C. Only a licensed clinician may initiate prescription medication treatment by a written or verbal order.
- D. The nursing administrator or on-site medical provider may allow the use of standing orders, but only for preventative medications (e.g., immunizations) and for ailments that are typically treated with over-the-counter medications.
- E. The facility nursing administrator will ensure that nurses are trained in protocol use and will document the following:
 - 1. Evidence that all new nursing staff is trained;
 - 2. Demonstration of knowledge and skills;
 - 3. Evidence of annual review of skills; and
 - 4. Evidence of retraining when new protocols are introduced or existing protocols are revised.

IV. CLOSING:

Questions regarding this procedure should be directed to the CSD.