I. **PURPOSE:**
To provide continuity of care to patients/inmates receiving medications at the time of discharge/release from NH Department of Corrections (NHDOC) facilities.

II. **APPLICABILITY:**
To all staff involved in discharge planning for patients and inmates on prescribed medications.

III. **POLICY:**
It is the policy of the NH Department of Corrections that:
A. Licensed prescribers will direct the healthcare staff regarding provisions for continuation of medications after release from NHDOC facilities. The psychiatric prescribers will provide direction for psychotropic medications.
B. The prescriber may:
   1. Coordinate for continuity of patient/inmate care with outside agencies;
   2. Write and sign an order to ensure that the patient/inmate is given at least a two week supply of all medications currently prescribed at the time of discharge (except Schedule II medications).
   3. Provide the patient/inmate with prescription(s) to be filled after release or call into the pharmacy in which the patient/inmate will be getting their prescriptions in the community. This may also include a prescription for diabetic supplies, if needed. For patients/inmates with specialty care issues, we will work to coordinate a plan for medication supplies.
   4. Advise the patient/inmate to see an appropriate healthcare provider at the time of discharge.
C. Medication(s) must be given to the patient/inmate in a properly labeled medication vial by the pharmacy.
IV. PROCEDURE:

A. The nursing staff will ask the providers to review the record and write a medication order for any patient/inmate scheduled to be discharged while taking prescription drugs.

B. The healthcare staff may discuss discharge plans with the patient/inmate including medications.

C. The nursing staff will process with the pharmacy all discharge prescriptions which will be filled by the pharmacy unless the prescription has already been given to the patient/inmate for ordering in the community due to the patient/inmates established health insurance coverage.

D. Upon preparation of the medication, the pharmacy will ensure delivery of the discharge medication/s in NH Board of Pharmacy approved packaging to the patient/inmate.

E. Upon discharge, the patient/inmate is properly counseled about the medications provided and that he/she will sign verifying receipt of the medications at the time of release.

REFERENCES:

Standards for the Administration of Correctional Agencies
Second Edition Standards

Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions
Fourth Edition Standards

Standards for Adult Community Residential Services
Fourth Edition Standards

Standards for Adult Probation and Parole Field Services
Third Edition Standards

Other

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