

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Operations Division
Health Services Section Policy and Procedure #P-E-11

SUBJECT: NURSING ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS

POLICY: Nursing assessment protocols are additional guides to ODOC Health Services nursing staff in the disposition of selected, specific health conditions. The assessment protocols facilitate the initiation of treatment of identified conditions and ensure appropriate referral. The Medical Director along with the Chief Medical Officers and Health Service Managers are responsible for the annual review of nursing assessment protocols. Each protocol is written in accordance with the State of Oregon Nurse Practice Act and must specify level of skill and preparation of health care staff privileged to use the protocol.

REFERENCE: OAR 291-124-015
OAR 851-045 – 0000-0010
NCCHC Standard P-E-11

PROCEDURE:

- A. The Medical Director will establish a set of nursing assessment protocols that specify the steps to be taken in the assessment, treatment and monitoring of specific health conditions. Each protocol also specifies the level of nursing skill necessary to apply the protocol. The institution Chief Medical Officer and Health Service Manager are responsible for reviewing the nursing assessment protocols and selecting those, which are to be used at a specific institution by nursing staff.
- B. A Chief Medical Officer and Health Service Manager may develop other nursing assessment protocols based upon unique or specific needs to be addressed at their institution. Any protocol developed or modified by the Chief Medical Officer is to be submitted to the Medical Director for review and discussion prior to its establishment at the institution. Nursing assessment protocols that are approved for use at a specific institution, but not statewide, are to be clearly noted as such in the Table of Contents and on the protocol itself, in a clear manner.
- C. The Health Service Manager is responsible for orienting each health care employee to the nursing assessment protocols used at the institution. The orientation will be documented and is to include:
 1. Evidence that the nurse was trained.
 2. Documentation that the nurse is able to demonstrate knowledge and skills pertinent to the protocols.

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3. Documentation of annual review of skills and knowledge that are required to utilize the protocols occurs during annual performance evaluations and as needed based on observation by the Chief Medical Officer and Health Services Manager.
 4. Documentation of training when new protocols are introduced or existing protocols are revised
- D. Nursing assessment protocols will be kept in a manual in the major health care areas and a manual which is taken to nursing triage.
- E. Subjective and objective areas listed in the nursing assessment protocol should be assessed and appropriate positive/negative findings documented in the progress notes. The assessment, plan, and patient education provided are also to be documented in the progress notes according to the nursing assessment protocol. Each entry is to be recorded in SOAP format, signed, dated and timed. Multiple applications of the same order on the same patient should be reviewed by the physician.
- F. If the assessment indicates that orders for treatment are to be initiated, these are to be written on the order sheet exactly as outlined in the nursing assessment protocol. The order will be written per protocol per the institution CMO/the nurses name and credentials. If a deviation from treatment listed in the protocol is necessary, the nurse must obtain an order from the responsible physician, dentist, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
- G. The health record of any inmate for whom treatment was initiated under a written protocol that includes orders for a legend drug or diagnostic procedure, will be reviewed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant as approved by the Chief Medical Officer within 72 hours. The physician or practitioner will review and initial the progress note written by the nurse and countersign the order. These reviews and countersigning should be dated and timed for health care record clarity.
- H. The use of nursing assessment protocols by nursing staff will be reviewed on a monthly basis during physician chart review by the Chief Medical Officer. Concerns with use of protocols are addressed with the Health Services Manager.

Effective Date: _____

Revision date: April 2007

Supersedes P&P dated: March 2006