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Forced Medication  
Involuntary Medication

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INVOLUNTARY MEDICATION

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I. PURPOSE

- A. Pursuant to Title 15 Section 1217, arrestees or inmates who are a danger to themselves or to others due to a mental disorder may be given involuntary psychotropic medications at the direction of the responsible physician in order to prevent injury to the arrestee/inmate or others, preservation of life and when it is impracticable to gain consent. This purpose is emergency medication only.
- B. Penal Code Section 1369.1 permits, upon the concurrence of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, the Mendocino County Mental Health Director and the Mendocino County Sheriff, designate the county jail as a "Treatment Facility" to provide involuntarily medication to defendants found to be mentally incompetent and unable to provide informed consent due to a mental disorder. The provisions of Sections 1370, 1370.01, and 1370.02 shall apply to antipsychotic medications provided in a county jail, provided, however, that the maximum period of time a defendant may be treated in a treatment facility pursuant to this section shall not exceed six months. This is done to avoid poor outcomes from those inmates that refuse their medication and risk decompensation. This purpose is completed through a Court Order.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Emergency** – a situation in which action to impose treatment over the inmate's objection is immediately necessary for the preservation of life or the prevention of serious bodily harm to the inmate or others, and it is impracticable to first gain consent. It is not necessary for harm to take place or become unavoidable prior to treatment.
- B. **Psychotropic medication** -- Any medication prescribed for the treatment of symptoms of psychoses and other mental and emotional disorders.
- C. **Involuntary medication** –at the direction of the Court pursuant to 1370 PC

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III. POLICY

- A. Involuntary psychotropic medications may be given at the direction of MEDICAL staff when an emergency exists and it is immediately necessary for the preservation of life, or to prevent serious bodily injury to the arrestee/inmate or others.
- B. Involuntary psychotropic medications may be given at the direction of a Court Order pursuant Penal Code section 1367 et. Seq.
- C. The administration of psychotropic medication is not allowed for disciplinary reasons.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. The Facility Supervisor and Medical Staff will determine the appropriate housing area to perform the involuntary medication.
  - 1. The safety cell is the preferred place to perform the involuntary medication but situations may dictate administering psychotropic medications in other areas dependant upon safety and security concerns.
- B. Medical staff will notify the Facility Supervisor of any pending involuntary medication.
- C. The Facility Supervisor will brief their staff and formulate a plan to enter the cell and secure the inmate so that psychotropic medications can be administered.
  - 1. Prior to using any force, the Facility Supervisor will make every effort to get the inmate to comply with medical staff and voluntarily take the medication(s).
- D. Upon entry into the inmate/arrestee's cell, correctional staff will secure the arrestee/inmate using only a reasonable amount of force (See Policy and Procedure 505.00 – Use of Force).
- E. Medical staff will enter the cell at the direction of correctional staff, administer the psychotropic medications, and then retreat from the cell.
- F. Correctional staff involved in involuntary medication will be required to complete a Jail Incident Report documenting their use of force in compliance with Policy and Procedure 505.00 – Use of Force.

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- G. After involuntary medications have been administered it is medical staff's responsibility to oversee the person medical condition.
- H. After involuntary medications have been administered, correctional staff will monitor the arrestee/inmate at least twice every thirty minutes for the first hour and once every thirty minutes for the next four hours.
  - 1. For arrestees/inmates housed in the safety cell, follow safety cell guidelines for inmate monitoring (See Policy and Procedure 503.20 – Use of Safety Cell).
  - 2. Documentation will be made on a Safety/Sobering Cell log.
    - a) The completed Safety/Sobering Cell log will be placed in the inmate's classification file.

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