DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Policy: 500.540
Title: Health Education and Disease Prevention
Effective Date: 4/3/18

PURPOSE: To ensure offenders/residents receive training in health education, prevention of illness, and preservation of health.

APPLICABILITY: All facilities

DEFINITIONS:
Self–care – care for a condition that can be treated by the offender/resident and may include over-the-counter medication.

PROCEDURES:

A. Health services staff must provide the offenders/residents in the reception and orientation (R&O) program a routine health screening and information regarding health education. The R&O program includes such examples as:

1. Oral and written information on access to health services for routine health care needs, grievance procedure, and the medical co-pay procedures.

2. Information on access to services of a psychologist, dietitian, optometrist, dentist, medical practitioner, physical therapist, and other specialists as deemed necessary on a routine or emergency basis.

3. Information on communicable diseases, including:
   a) Sexually transmissible diseases;
   b) Tuberculosis;
   c) HIV; and
   d) Hepatitis A, B, and C.

4. Information on over-the-counter (OTC) medications available for purchase in the canteen. Offenders/residents are encouraged to take responsibility for self-care with routine health issues as they would do if they were not incarcerated.

R&O content must be retained at each facility and attendance records must be retained in the offender's/resident's medical record.

B. Nursing staff provide offenders/residents with specific education on the chronic diseases identified in DOC Policy 500.052, "Chronic Disease Management Program," and participates in chronic care clinic visits when indicated. Nursing staff record this information in progress notes.

C. Nursing staff provide specific health education information when indicated during sick call encounters, and record the information in progress notes.

D. Health services staff provide specific health education information as requested by offenders/residents and, in cooperation with corrections staff, provide training programs for offenders/residents to encourage good health habits and disease prevention.

1. Instruction sheets for minor, commonly occurring conditions are available to offenders/residents through health services.

2. Health education and disease prevention education is conducted in a language and manner that is easily understood by each offender/resident and may include classes, informal one-on-one instructions, brochures, audio and visual tapes, and pamphlets.

E. Health services staff must document in the medical record the type of education given to the offender/resident including the title of the topic, whether it was reviewed verbally with the offender/resident, and whether the offender/resident understands and comprehends the education given.

F. In the event of an alleged sexual assault health service staff provide the alleged perpetrator and victim with information on the sexual assault exam; and offer information on sexually-transmitted disease (STD) testing.

INTERNAL CONTROLS:

A. Reception and orientation (R&O) content and attendance is retained at each facility.

B. Documentation of offender/resident education conducted during nurse sick call and clinic visits is retained in the offender's medical record.

ACA STANDARDS: 4-4344, 4-4345, 4-4361, 4-4355, 4-4354, 4-4356, 4-4357, 1-ABC-4E-06, 1-ABC-4E-41, 1-ABC-4E-43, 1-ABC-4E-44

REFERENCES: Minn. Stat. § 241.01 Subd. 3a
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), 28 C.F.R. §115 (2012)

REPLACES: Policy 500.540, "Health Education and Disease Prevention,"4/5/16.
All facility policies, memos, or other communications whether verbal, written, or transmitted by electronic means regarding this topic.

ATTACHMENTS: None

APPROVED BY:
Deputy Commissioner, Facility Services
Deputy Commissioner, Community Services
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