

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Clinical Updates

Policy Number: 507.01.06

Effective Date: 1/19/2022

Page Number: 1 of 2

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Health Services Division
(Physical Health)

Access Listing:
Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Office of Health Services will have a mechanism to provide updated clinical information for providers. The official document used for dissemination of updated clinical information is called a Clinical Update. This procedure is applicable to all facilities that house GDC offenders to include private and county prisons.

II. Authority:

ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6B-01 and 5-ACI-6A-43.

III. Definitions:

Clinical Update - The official document used for dissemination of updated clinical information.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. The GDC Statewide Medical Director will identify and approve all topics in the area of health services needing updated clinical information.
1. The Clinical Update will be signed by the GDC Statewide Medical Director who will assume responsibility for its content;
 2. Clinical Updates may be co-authored with the GDC Statewide Medical Director;
 3. Clinical Updates will deal with:
 - a. Clinical/medical issues; and
 - b. May be issued from the Office of Health Services without prior approval of any other division of the Georgia Department of Corrections;
 4. Clinical Updates will have the status of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and will be followed as such;

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5. Clinical Updates may be used to provide new information about a subject contained in an official SOP;
6. If a Clinical Update contains information that supersedes an official SOP, that SOP will be:
 - a. Revised within one (1) year; and
 - b. Contain the changes contained in the Clinical Update if still clinically indicated for patient care.
7. Clinical Updates will be numbered by year and by sequence of issue;
8. The first two digits will indicate the year (1995 = 95) and the second two digits following a decimal point will indicate the sequence of issue (first = .01, second = .02);
9. Copies of all current Clinical Updates will be kept in the medical section of all institutions where offenders receive medical care;
10. Copies of Clinical Updates may also be accessed via Captiva under Resources/Health Services Documents/02 Physical Health/Clinical Updates;
11. Clinical Updates dealing with specific medical treatment are a guideline;
12. Actual treatment decisions rest with the attending physician; and
13. For all departures from Clinical Update recommended treatment, there must be a rationale documented in the medical record.

V. Attachments: None.

VI. Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy: None.