

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: NNAMHS TRANSFERS AND REFERRALS TO VAMC-RENO

NUMBER: NN-IM-MR-08

Page 1 of 2

ORIGINAL DATE: 10/05/06

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 8/20/09, 7/19/12

APPROVAL: Cody L. Phinney, Agency Director

I. PURPOSE

To ensure continuity of care for Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) consumers who are veterans.

II. POLICY

NNAMHS staff shall use the following procedural steps when transferring or referring a consumer to VAMC-Loannis A. Lougaris Medical Center for services.

III. PROCEDURES

1. During business hours, and as soon as possible, call 328-1441, to determine if veteran is eligible for services. Having a VA card or reporting military duty does not guarantee eligibility. (Also, if the veteran was dishonorably discharged or is a fugitive felon, they will not be eligible). The veteran may be eligible only for a limited level of service. A veteran who needs inpatient hospitalization cannot be transferred to the VA until after they have had their court hearing and have been committed. The VA also cannot admit inpatient, a consumer who requires a

locked unit or who is behaviorally out of control. If the veteran is not eligible, the consumer cannot be transferred or referred to VAMC for any services. If the veteran is eligible for an identified service at VAMC , proceed to the next step.

- 1A. Call the VA social worker at 328-1485 to inform them you are interested in transferring / referring a veteran who has a mental illness. The social worker will be able to tell you if there are any beds available and after giving them the report, will be able to tell you if they can treat that veteran. If you are seeking inpatient services, ask if the VA staff can pick up the consumer. If VA staff is unavailable to pick the consumer up, arrange for NNAMHS staff to transport.
- 1B. If NNAMHS staff transport, the consumer should be accompanied into the triage area (Burns Street) and the NNAMHS staff should remain with the consumer until they have been received for admission.
2. West Hills Hospital can only be used as an alternative source of VA paid treatment if the VA has evaluated that person themselves. Due to staffing concerns, the VA is unlikely to be able to admit anyone after hours or on weekends but they are willing to receive calls of inquiry. The VA will have to medically clear their own consumer so the consumer will always go through triage first.
3. Referring a veteran with mental illness for outpatient services requires the same procedural steps.