Policy: It is the policy of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services to have a Communicable Infectious Disease procedure that includes restriction criteria for admission into the in-patient services when a severe active communicable infectious disease is present or suspected.

Purpose: The purpose is to ensure the safety of consumers and staff by preventing exposure to communicable infectious diseases.

Definition: A severe active communicable disease is defined as one which can be transmitted directly or indirectly and:

1. Exposes consumers and staff to undue high risk of infection. (e.g., Active or inadequately treated Tuberculosis.)

2. Exposes consumers or staff to infection for which there is limited effective treatment, (e.g. Infection caused by organisms, which are resistant to antibiotic treatment.)

Procedures:

No person will be admitted to an in-patient service within the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services who is found to have a severe active communicable infectious disease. No employee found to have a severe active communicable infectious disease will be permitted to return to work until a signed release is presented from a licensed physician and, when appropriate, consultation with the Agency Medical Physician, the Agency Medical Director or the State Medical Director.

Agencies within the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services are not required to provide in-patient treatment to consumers who require more than commonly accepted standard precaution Techniques for the prevention of the spread of disease. This precludes treatment where isolation techniques are necessary.

I. Consumers admitted into Division Agencies will be screened for the presence of severe active communicable disease prior to admission and denied admission when such illness is found to be present.

II. Screening for Medical Clearance prior to admission of individuals suspected of having a severe active communicable disease is the responsibility of the physician charged with the medical care of consumers admitted to the Agency.

III. No person suspected of having a severe active communicable disease shall be admitted without consultation and agreement between the medical physician providing care for consumers within the Agency and the Agency Director of Nursing.

IV. No person suspected of having a severe active communicable disease will be admitted without notification and the agreement of the Agency Medical Director and the Agency Director.

V. In situations where there are unanswered questions as to the severity or active nature of the communicable disease or the risk of spread of infection, no admission will occur without the notification and agreement of the State Medical Director and Division Administrator.

VI. Any consumer admitted to an in-patient facility within the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services who is found to have a severe active communicable disease will be immediately transferred to an appropriate medical facility that is equipped to provide adequate care for that individual.

VII. In the case of a reportable infectious disease of a consumer or employee, the Agency will promptly notify appropriate public health officials and take all necessary steps to determine the risk of spread of infection to remaining consumers and staff and facilitate adequate screening and treatment opportunity.

VIII. The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services will comply fully with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pertaining to disabilities, including AIDS, HIV and related conditions.

IX. Each Division agency shall develop specific written procedures to implement the provision of this policy or shall incorporate this policy into the agency policy manual.

Administrator

Effective Date: 10-23-03
Review Date: 06-01-07
Date Approved by MHDS Commission: