NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: INPATIENT PHYSICIAN COVERAGE

NUMBER: NN-MS-02

ORIGINAL DATE: 08/03/06

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 4/16/09, 7/19/12

APPROVAL Cody L. Phinney, Agency Director

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I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for providing physician coverage to the inpatient units.

II. POLICY

Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) will maintain adequate physician coverage on the inpatient units.

III. PROCEDURES

1. In the event that there are unscheduled absences of inpatient medical staff the Medical Director and/or Chief of Staff will notify available outpatient physicians that they are to provide coverage on the inpatient unit. There will be at least one physician in the hospital between 8:00 a.m. and noon and a physician available in the afternoon to assist in reviewing consumer treatment issues as needed.
2. Outpatient physicians who are called to cover inpatient should respond as soon as possible. The physician should contact the nurse supervisor who will brief the
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physician with respect to patient issues and, if necessary, ensure that the physician can meet with treatment team social workers.

3. Covering physician should, if at all possible, be available for treatment team meetings.
4. Covering physician should consult with the Utilization Management nurse regarding Medicaid and Medicare care re-certifications.
5. Covering physician should see new consumers and complete psychiatric evaluations on new consumers.
6. House supervisor should ensure that the covering physician is apprised of any consumer care issues which require immediate physician review and action.