

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (NNAMHS)  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT: MEDICAL STAFF COMPLETION OF DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (DMV)  
FORM

NUMBER: NN-MS-05

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ORIGINAL DATE: 06/07/07

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 4/15/10, 7/18/13

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_ Cody L. Phinney \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Director

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I. PURPOSE

To describe the limits of responsibility for physicians/Advanced Practice Nurse's (APN) responding to consumer requests for filling out a DMV form. Such forms are required for some clients taking medications for a mental illness who wish to drive an automobile. Being able to drive is an important aspect of some consumer's recovery process and an important element of independence.

II. POLICY

The Outpatient Medication Clinic prescribers will fill in and sign DMV forms requested by consumers, only after adequately assessing the consumer's mental health and educating the consumer as to the potential side effects, including but not limited to sedation, of any medication they are prescribing for the consumer. Prescribers are not expected to assess any consumer's ability to drive, or approve all requests made, based on their assessment of mental or functional disability

### III. REFERENCES

1. American Psychiatric Association (APA) Position Statement document # 930004

### IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Consumer is to notify either their Service Coordinator or the Family Support Specialist that they have a DMV form that needs to be filled out and signed. Consumers whose only service is the outpatient medication clinic will bring the form directly to their prescriber at their scheduled appointment
  - B. For walk-in consumers the clinical staff will then ascertain when the consumer's next outpatient medication clinic appointment is or get them a new one if it is not within the time frame in which the form must be completed. The form will be attached to the chart for the doctor to review. The clinical staff person will also offer to the prescriber any concerns they may have as to the consumer's safety as a driver.
  - C. The physician, upon seeing the form attached to the chart, will review the record for the last psychiatric evaluation that has been done. They will conduct a brief interview with the consumer and update the evaluation to satisfy themselves as to whether it is reasonable to assume the mental illness will not preclude the consumer from driving. It is recognized that the ultimate responsibility for assessing a consumer's ability to drive rests with the DMV.
  - D. The psychiatrist will educate the consumer in this session about potential side effects of all medication prescribed for the consumer. The prescriber will assess the consumer for current side effects and make a judgment before signing the form as to whether side effects of the medication being prescribed make it too dangerous for the consumer to drive. It is recognized the consumer may not have disclosed to the psychiatrist all the medications and their doses that a consumer may be taking.
5. Psychiatrists/APN's cannot assess the consumer's ability to drive and will not do so.