

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Policy Name: Clinical Updates		
Policy Number: 507.01.06	Effective Date: 11/21/2019	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:

- A. NCCHC Adult and Juvenile Standards; and
- B. ACA Standards: 4-4380 and 4-4381.

III. Definitions:

- A. **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 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 Inmate Services/Health Services Document Library/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.