

AGREEMENT

Now come Disability Rights Vermont, Inc. ("DRVT") and the Vermont Department of Corrections ("DOC"), in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, agree as follows:


1. If medical staff identifies upon intake or any time thereafter through the CIWA or other evaluation that an inmate is in need of placement on the detoxification protocol, the nurse on duty will notify security staff that the inmate should be placed on constant, 15 or 30 minute observations, as indicated. Post orders shall indicate that inmates must be placed on constant, 15 or 30 minute observations per the recommendation of medical staff in such circumstances. If there is a change of status, security staff shall report the change of status to medical staff immediately. If the disposition of an inmate on detoxification protocol changes, there will be a written medical order by a physician identifying the frequency of observations.
2. The DOC shall prepare a Facility Detoxification Capacity Assessment ("FDCA"), which shall be completed by February 1, 2010. The DOC shall provide DRVT drafts of the FDCA periodically for review and comment. The FDCA shall identify the highest level of detoxification/withdrawal acuity each facility can manage and the maximum level of detoxification/withdrawal acuity that each unit of each facility can manage
3. At each nursing shift change, the incoming nurse shall review with the outgoing nurse documentation regarding inmates' CIWA scores and determine that the necessary follow up relative to scoring occurred in the prior shift. If the incoming nurse determines that the necessary follow up did not occur in the prior shift, the incoming nurse shall promptly assess the affected inmate and document the inmate's CIWA score in the inmate's medical record. The incoming nurse shall notify the physician of the inmates' status as warranted by the inmate's CIWA score.
4. The DOC shall provide training appropriate to implement the provisions of this agreement.
5. The DOC will monitor the compliance with detoxification protocol through quality assurance audits and will provide the results its quality assurance audits to DRVT. The quality assurance audits will include (a) identification of inmates in need of placement on the detoxification protocol; (b) a review of the assessment of their acuity at the of the assessment; (c) appropriate monitoring in collaboration with security staff, as determined by the inmate's disposition; and (d) in cases where a change in status was noted a determination that the response to the change in status was appropriate. The DOC shall provide the results of its quality assurance audits to DRVT quarterly beginning on May 1, 2010 and ending on May 1, 2012.
6. This agreement may be modified at any time by the parties upon mutual, written agreement.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont this 5th day of November 2009.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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