



VERMONT

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DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Family Services Division
Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center

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Subject:	Medication Evaluation Reviews	Page 1 of 3
Approved:	Jay Simons, Director 	Effective: 4/24/2018
Supersedes	Woodside Policy and Procedure	Dated: 12/2012

Purpose

To ensure that Woodside residents remain on psychotropic medications only as long as is appropriate.

Related Policies

Family Services Policy 137: Anti-Psychotic Medications For Children in The Care of DCF
Woodside Policy and Procedure 412: Decisions Regarding Medications

Definitions

Psychotropic medications: Medications used for an emotional or behavioral condition including:

- Stimulants
- Antidepressants
- Benzodiazepines
- Anti-anxiety medications (including Buspar)
- Mood stabilizers (Lithium)

The following are not typically classified as psychotropic medications but are sometimes used for emotional or behavioral conditions:

- Alpha-agonists (Clonidine and Guanfacine and their long-term analogs).
- Anti-convulsants

Policy

In order to determine the effectiveness, appropriateness and client satisfaction with psychotropic medications prescribed to residents at Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center the following procedures will be followed.

Procedure

1. Upon admission to Woodside or upon the initiation of a psychiatric medication, a target symptom will be identified for each psychotropic medication prescribed.
 - The prescribing Woodside physician will document the appropriateness of the psychotropic medication for that symptom.

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- A measure of the current status of the symptom will be made with preference given to standardized measures.
 - Potential drug interactions, actions taken in response and the rationale for those actions will be documented in the resident's record by the Woodside psychiatrist.
2. Within two business days of admission the resident will be interviewed by nursing or physician staff as to their understanding of the risks and benefits of any psychotropic medication they may be taking at the time of admission, as well as their satisfaction with the medication.
3. Using American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Guidelines, any initiation or change of dose or type of psychotropic medication, will be reviewed by the Woodside psychiatrist for the effectiveness of the impact on the target symptoms and documented in the clinical record including, but not limited to:
- A follow-up measure of the target symptom in order to contrast to the original measure of the target symptom,
 - Potential drug interactions, actions taken in response and the rationale for those actions, and
 - The resident's satisfaction with the medication including discussion of the effectiveness and side effects of the medication.
4. The Woodside nurses will conduct a monthly file audit to certify that the above procedures are being followed and documented in the client's record.
4. Annually a peer review for appropriateness of psychotropic medications will be conducted in which the child psychiatrists will review the clinical records of physicians other than themselves using the following procedures and guidelines:
- A sample of at least 25% of the records of residents being prescribed psychotropic medications will be reviewed.
 - The appropriateness of the medication as indicated by documentation of the resident exhibiting a symptom for which there is evidence in the literature the medication could be expected to be effective.
 - The resident preference for treatment alternatives is documented.
 - Consideration of side effects and contraindications is documented.



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- Needed laboratory studies are carried out and reviewed by the prescribing physician.
- Potential interactions of multiple medications are considered.
- The reviewing child psychiatrist will draft a report of the findings and recommendations and send copies to the prescribing physician, the Woodside Clinical and Educational Director and the quality improvement/performance improvement system.