



BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

State of Alabama Alabama Department of Corrections

301 S. Ripley Street
P. O. Box 301501
Montgomery, AL 36130



DONAL CAMPBELL
COMMISSIONER

March 14, 2005

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
NUMBER 619

OPR: TREATMENT

PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION AND HEAT

I. GENERAL

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes the responsibilities, policies, and procedures for psychotropic medication and heat. ADOC will ensure inmates prescribed psychotropic medication are protected from potential health risks associated with exposure to sustained elevated temperatures and direct sunlight.

II. POLICY

Efforts will be taken to ensure that inmates receiving psychotropic medication are not exposed to sustained elevated temperature or direct sunlight for extended periods of time since such individuals have increased sensitivity to sunlight and are at higher risk for such heat-induced syndromes as heat stroke, hypothermia, and heat prostration.

III. DEFINITION(S) AND ACRONYM(S)

Refer to AR 602 for definitions of the following terms used in this AR:

Hypothermia

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Psychiatrists/Nurse Practitioners are responsible to inform inmates prescribed psychotropic medication of potential risks when they are exposed to heat/sun for prolonged periods.
- B. The mental health nurses at each institution will conduct individual or group education sessions before each summer season to remind inmates prescribed psychotropic medication of the risks involved with elevated temperature and direct sunlight.
- C. Correctional Officers assigned to segregation units where inmates taking psychotropic medication are housed are responsible for:
 - 1. Monitoring and recording of temperatures in segregation.

2. Initiating measures to reduce temperatures in segregation.
- D. The Director of Treatment and Wardens will ensure that measures to reduce sun/heat exposure risks for inmates taking psychotropic medication are initiated and maintained at all ADOC institutions.
- E. The Supervising Psychologist is responsible to remind the institutional Wardens of the risks of elevated temperature on inmates prescribed psychotropic medication before each summer season. The Supervising Psychologist is also responsible to monitor that measures to minimize these risks are completed at each institution. The ADOC Director of Treatment will be consulted for assistance when the Supervising Psychologist experiences difficulties in achieving compliance at a specific institution.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Mental Health Nursing Staff will advise inmates prescribed psychotropic medication of the potential risks associated with exposure to sustained elevated temperatures and/or direct sunlight and offer the following precautionary measures:
1. Wear protective clothing and sunscreen when in direct sunlight.
 2. Limit activities/work assignments that are physically exhausting and expose the inmate to direct sunlight.
 3. Consume eight to twelve glasses of liquid per day to prevent dehydration.
- B. The Supervising Psychologist will provide the Institution's SEG Commander/Captain with an updated weekly list of inmates taking psychotropic medication.
- C. Correctional Officers in segregation units that house inmates prescribed psychotropic medication will:
1. Regularly monitor the temperature (at least three times per day) when the outside temperature is higher than 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
 2. Record the temperatures on ADOC Form MH-026, Housing Unit Temperature Log.
 3. Take the following measures if the cell temperature exceeds 90 degrees Fahrenheit:
 - a. Notify the SEG Commander/Captain.
 - b. Use fans to increase ventilation and airflow.
 - c. Provide increased amounts of fluids and ice.
 - d. Allow additional showers to provide cooling.

4. If the above efforts fail to reduce the cell temperature, Officers will:
 - a. Notify the Warden.
 - b. Consider temporary transfer to a cooler area in the institution.
- D. Inmates taking psychotropic medication will be provided sunscreen if both of the following apply:
 1. They are required to be in direct sunlight for longer than one hour.
 2. They are unable to afford the purchase of sunscreen.

VI. DISPOSITION

Refer to AR 601, Mental Health Forms and Disposition

VII. FORMS

Refer to AR 601, Mental Health Forms and Disposition, for:

ADOC Form MH-026, Housing Unit Temperature Log.

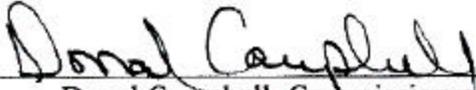
VIII. SUPERCEDES

This AR supercedes AR 459 dated August 29, 2001.

IX. PERFORMANCE

This AR is published under the authority of:

- A. The Bradley Agreement of August 8, 2000
- B. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care: Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003. (P-I-01)
- C. The Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 22-50-11.



Donal Campbell, Commissioner