DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL Nursing Division - Administration **SUJBECT: Monitoring Effects of Medication** **REFERENCE:** Joint Commission Standard MM.6.10; Nurse Practice Act Guam P.L. 16-123	**Number:** _____ Effective Date: _____ History: New Page: 1 of 2 APPROVED: _____ Title: Director, DMHSA

POLICY:

- The effects of medications on consumers are monitored to assess the effectiveness of medication therapy and to minimize the occurrence of adverse events. Each consumer's response to medication administered is monitored according to his or her clinical needs. Ongoing consumer medication monitoring will use a collaborative approach between consumer care providers, physicians, pharmacists and the consumer, family or caregiver.

- Monitoring will address the consumer's response to the prescribed medication and actual or potential medication-related problems. The results of consumer medication monitoring will be used to improve the consumer's medication regimen and/or other clinical care and treatment processes.

PROCEDURE:

- The consumer care provider (nurse, psychiatric technician, etc.) will monitor and assess the effect of medications on the consumer.

- Monitoring and assessing the effect of the medication includes, but is not limited to:

    - Direct observation of the consumer during assessments, evaluations or other consumer contact to determine the consumer's physiological response to the medication administered and any problems or adverse effects associated with the medication.

    - Review of:

        - Results of clinical diagnostic studies

        - Results of Clinical Laboratory values/levels

        - The medication profile

        - Current clinically related data about the consumer's condition and progress documented in the medical record (i.e., medical staff, nursing ,and other disciplines progress notes, notations on care plans, consultation reports)

- Information about the consumer's own perceptions about medication side effects, and when appropriate, perceived efficacy and/or sensitivities the consumer may have to the medication.

- When the consumer is given a medication that is new to the consumer, the first several doses (amount of doses dependent upon the medication) will be monitored.

  - Consumer may experience adverse reactions to medications that are new to their systems. Therefore when new medications are administered to the consumer, the care provider will physically observe and assess the consumer one-half hour (30 minutes) after the consumer receives the medication to assure there is no evidence of adverse effect. The consumer care provider will again physically observe the consumer in another 30 minutes (which will be one (1) hour from initial administration time) to assure the new medication did not produce adverse effects or sensitivities to the consumer.

  - For medications or categories of medications known to commonly produce side effects or sensitivities in consumer (for example Abilif), the consumer will be physically observed for the known side effects and sensitivities for a 24-hour period.

  - The consumer will receive a test dose for medications where this is both appropriate and available (i.e., some categories of antipsychotic medications) for medications given on a first time basis in an effort to identify an adverse drug reaction, allergy or sensitivity to the medication.

  - Other Clinical Laboratory studies may be ordered as appropriate to monitor the consumer's response to medications that are new to his or her system to prevent unnecessary side effects or adverse reactions (i.e., peak and trough levels).

- The information obtained through consumer medication monitoring and assessment will be documented in the consumer's medical record.