

Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center		
TITLE: Pat Down and Strip Searches Protocol	POLICY NO: AD-HS- 05	Page 1 of 2
RESPONSIBILITY: Health & Safety		
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PAT DOWN SEARCHES PROTOCOL

- A. Instruct the consumer to remove shoes, hat, coat and jackets and empty pockets/turn them inside out.
- B. Check the pockets and ensure they are empty.
- C. Closely examine the consumer's hair and look behind the ears to locate any possible concealed items. If necessary, run hands through hair.
- D. Ask the consumer to stand with legs apart and arms extended outward. Conduct a systematic head to toe search as follows:
 - 1. Observe closely for inappropriate bulges or areas the consumer is reluctant to reveal.
 - 2. Run hands under shirt collar, across shoulders and down upper part of each arm to wrist.
 - 3. Using back of hand, run hands inside waistband, back pockets and down each leg.
 - 4. Check each sock and shoe.
 - 5. Sweep hands down the consumer's back from the shirt collar to the waist.
 - 6. If appropriate, ask to look inside the consumer's mouth and ears
- E. If in the course of a pat-down of the external clothing, a hard, suspicious object is discovered which reasonably could be, for example, a weapon or bottle of pills, the staff person conducting the search may remove the object for closer inspection.
- F. Only ask the consumer to remove articles of clothes if there is reasonable suspicion the consumer is concealing an item that cannot be detected through pat-down search and follow the "strip search" procedure below.

STRIP SEARCH AND SKIN SEARCHES FOR CONTRABAND

- A. "Strip searches" and "skin searches" whereby the consumer's clothing is removed and the consumer is subject to an inspection of all or part of his/her body, whether visual or manual, are strongly discouraged.
 - 1. Any search of body cavities other than the mouth or ears must be authorized by a physician's order specifying the type of search.
- B. These types of searches shall be permitted only under extreme circumstances and only where:
 - 1. There is sufficient cause to believe that the consumer is harboring dangerous contraband on his/herself
 - 2. There is great likelihood that the consumer will personally use such contraband to seriously harm himself/herself or others
 - 3. The justification for the search, including the basis for concluding the two above items, is documented in the medical record
 - 4. There is adequate documentation in the medical record to support the above justification

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5. All less intrusive methods of discovery have been performed and have failed; all of the attempts are documented.
6. The inspection is conducted in private by a psychiatrist, licensed independent practitioner or registered nurse
 - i. Two (2) staff persons should be in attendance
 - ii. If the inspecting staff and the consumer are of different sexes, then the other staff member should be of the same sex as the consumer being examined
 - iii. No other persons should be present
7. The reasons for the search must be made known to the consumer
8. All other provisions in this policy are met

RELATED POLICY (IES):

1. *AD-HS-04 Contraband and Personal Searches*
2. *CL-NU-02 Body and Skin Searches in Crisis Stabilization Unit*