

SECTION - THERAPY SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 442  
(Replaces AD 442 dated 2/15/06)

Effective Date: January 19, 2007

**SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF LIMITED ENGLISH-SPEAKING PATIENTS**

I. PURPOSE

To ensure that Spanish-speaking Individuals, who have limited proficiency in English, receive evaluation and services in a language that makes it possible for them to understand and participate actively.

II. AUTHORITY

The Governing Body of Coalinga State Hospital (CSH) requires that treatment for Spanish-speaking Individuals, who have limited proficiency in English, shall be provided as much as possible in their primary language; and Special Order 204.01.


III. POLICY

It is the policy of CSH that each newly admitted Spanish-speaker, who lacks full fluency in English, will receive a language proficiency evaluation as part of his initial integrated assessment. When found to have significant limitations in ability to speak or understand the English language, the Individual will be placed on an appropriate unit with a plan for enabling communication in his native language.

The principle need is for Spanish-speaking service and it is expected that CSH will hire and retain Spanish-speaking staff to meet this ongoing need.

IV. METHOD

All Spanish-speaking Individuals are evaluated upon their arrival to the admitting unit. A language proficiency rating is utilized to classify an Individual's English-language proficiency on a six-point scale from "no English" to "proficient English (standard)." Results of this proficiency scale determine appropriate placements on a long-term unit. More specifically, Individuals obtaining a score of "intermediate" or below are recommended for placement on a designated language-enhanced unit.



W. T. VOSS  
Executive Director