

SECTION – MEDICAL/NURSING SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 546
(Replaces A.D. No. 546 dated 4/13/06)

Effective Date: March 8, 2007

SUBJECT: PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING INVOLUNTARY MEDICAL TREATMENT

I. PURPOSE

To ensure Coalinga State Hospital staff follows Federal and State guidelines when authorizing involuntary medical treatment.

II. AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 73524; Department of Mental Health, and the Superior Court of California.

III. POLICY

This directive describes the procedures to follow for use of involuntary medical treatment for life threatening physical conditions for all Individuals who are not on a Conservatorship. If the Individual is on a Conservatorship (WIC 5353, 5358) contact the Individual's conservator. The Individual must be unable to give informed consent to medical treatment due to a mental illness.

IV. METHOD

A. Until a Superior Court order is issued authorizing involuntary medical treatment, the Individual may be treated only in the event of an emergency and only for as long as the emergency exists. "Patients can receive involuntary medical treatment in an emergency case in which the medical treatment is required because such treatment is required for the alleviation of severe pain or the patient has a medical condition which, if not immediately diagnosed and treated, will lead to serious disability or death." Probate Code 3210.

B. For emergency involuntary medical treatment:

Physician's medication order should state that this is emergency involuntary medical treatment. Medication order should be specific for the emergency only and time limited for the emergency. The need for continued emergency involuntary medical treatment should be assessed as medically appropriate, or at least every four hours and new medication orders written if needed. Physician should write a corresponding progress note detailing the need for emergency involuntary medical treatment citing specific examples of the Individual's medical condition.

- C. Continued involuntary medical treatment beyond the emergency:
1. Continued, less urgent, but still potentially life-threatening conditions may be treated pursuant to a court order under Probate Code 3200. Contact Forensic Services to initiate the Probate Code 3200 procedure.
 2. The treating or forensic psychiatrist must testify in court to the Individual's inability to give informed consent due to his mental disorder and the treating or consulting physician must testify in court about the Individual's life threatening medical condition. The Individual will have a Fresno Superior Court hearing as soon as available.
- D. If the petition is granted by the Superior Court, medical treatment is authorized only to the extent permitted in the court order, and is limited to the duration specified in the order, usually six months to a year. There is a renewal process.



W. T. VOSS
Executive Director

Cross Reference(s):

A.D. No. 538 Medication, Treatment and Procedure Orders

A.D. No. 540 Procedure for Involuntary Psychotropic Medication of PC2684 Individuals

A.D. No. 542 Procedure for Involuntary Psychotropic Medication for WIC 6600 Individuals