

**SECTION – SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 642
(Replaces A.D. No. 642 dated 5/11/06)**

Effective Date: April 13, 2007

SUBJECT: NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ITEMS

I. PURPOSE

To provide a procedure for appropriately handling Native American Spiritual items consistent with the Native American culture and hospital security.

II. AUTHORITY

By Order of the Hospital Executive Director and the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 73523.

III. POLICY

A. The following are items that may be permitted in the possession of Native American Individuals. These items may be spiritual according to Native American Spiritual practices and might be desecrated if handled improperly:

1. Sacred Pipe and Pipe bag or par flesh case.
2. Herbs: Sage all types, Cedar, Sweet grass, Juniper, Capal, Yarrow, Mint, Lavender, Tobacco, Mug wart, Fever few, Bearberry leaf, Aloe Vera, and Pepperwood.
3. Roots: Blackroot, Loveageroot, Flagroot, Snakeroot, Greasewood, Yarrowroot, Bitterroot, Ahgelica, and Wild Sunflower.
4. Berries: Chokecherry, Raspberry, Blackberry, Blueberry, Huckleberries, Sourberries, etc. (dried).
5. Corn: Cornmeal, dried Corn (shucked), all types.
6. Feathers: All types, but not larger than 12 inches.
7. Paints: Natural Earth Paints only (non-toxic, water based). Use only under supervision.
8. Stones: Various shapes and sizes, prayer stones (size approved by Native American Spiritual Leader consistent with potential for weapon use).
9. Shells: Various shapes and sizes, 4" or less.

10. Hair Ties: Various shapes, sizes, and adornments.
 11. Ceremonial Instruments: Flute, hand drum, rattles, etc.
 12. Animal Parts: Bones, Teeth, Claws (not larger than 4 inches), and fur.
 13. Ceremonial Chokers: Bone hair pipe, Beads, Shells, etc. (must be intact).
 14. Prayer Cloth: Red, Green, Yellow, White, Black, Blue, Orange and Purple.
 15. Beaded items.
 16. Headbands: For ceremonial wear only.
 17. Various leather and fur bags for storage of above listed items.
 18. Personal Medicine Bag: 1½" in size, strap to be approved by Native American Spiritual Leader, worn inside of shirt. (Note: This is an extremely sensitive item for Native American Religious Practitioners. Prior to search or confiscation of said item, staff should contact the Native American Spiritual Leader.)
- B. No Native American religious items are spiritual unless made so by the Native American Spiritual Leader. The Native American Spiritual Leader will maintain a current list of Native American practitioners and spiritual items approved by the Chief, Central Program Services for use within the facility. Based on the safety and security needs of the hospital, the quantity and/or size of these items may be restricted. Items may also be restricted based on their potential as contraband. The Native American Spiritual Leader will ensure that the list is continuously updated.
- C. Upon recognizing an Individual is a Native American practicing Native American rituals, the Unit Supervisor will meet with the Individual and develop a mutually-agreed upon process for searching the Individuals property, considering each of the possible searching scenarios (random, unit, hospital-wide). The Native American Spiritual Leader is authorized to settle any dispute in matters of the spiritualness of possessions or their handling.
- D. The Individual will list all items and their quantities on a property slip. This slip will be co-signed by the Native American Spiritual Leader. The Individual will receive a copy and a copy will be stored in the chart. No Native American religious items are sacred unless made so by the Native American Spiritual Leader.
- E. A notice will be placed on the Individual's assigned room door in clear and legible print informing staff that there are Native American spiritual items within that require special handling. This card must be reviewed and approved by the Native American Spiritual Leader. It is the responsibility of the Unit Supervisor to ensure that this notice is properly displayed.

1. The notice will state, "Notice to Staff: Native American spiritual items. Special handling required. Please see Unit Supervisor before searching this room".
2. The notice will be signed by the Native American Spiritual Leader.

F. Searches:

1. All efforts to maintain the sanctity of the Native American Spiritual items will be made. This is especially an issue during searching procedures. Since there are many approved variations in the actual practices of different Native American Tribes, it is incumbent upon staff to identify which Individuals may practice Native American Spiritual Ritual and to ensure that approved ritual is followed in handling spiritual items. The Native American Spiritual leader will keep a current list of practitioners.
2. It is the responsibility of the Unit Supervisor to have a plan in place for ensuring that Native American religious items listed on the property slip are properly handled with respect to prevent desecration. This plan should include, whenever possible, the input and cooperation of the Individual.
3. Every effort will be made to permit the Individual to handle his own spiritual items. (In the event that this is not possible because of the Individual's inability to participate appropriately in the procedure, the Native American Spiritual Leader will be contacted. In the event that the Native American Spiritual Leader is not available, the Unit Supervisor (US)/designee will secure the items until the Individual is able to participate or until the Native American Spiritual Leader is available.)
4. Staff will ask the Individual to transfer all spiritual items to a clear plastic bag and seal it for later inspection. (Other, pre-approved bags may be used for this purpose.)
5. Unit staff will directly observe the procedure and ensure that all spiritual items are transferred.
6. Staff will inspect the bag and its contents by having the Individual show items individually.
7. Staff will direct the Individual to open pouches or other bags in order to view the contents ensuring that no contraband is within.
8. The spiritual items are only to be handled by the Individual (or Native American Spiritual Leader) unless the Individual gives specific consent to the staff to handle the items.
9. If contraband is noted, staff will confiscate the item(s) and follow established procedures for disposition.

10. Upon the initiation of a unit or hospital-wide search, the Unit Supervisor/ designee is responsible to ensure that any Native American spiritual items are removed from the Individual's rooms according to the above procedure. The Individual shares responsibility in ensuring staff knows about the existence of spiritual items. Once searched, the bag will be placed in a secure area and labeled to prevent further search or possible desecration. The spiritual items will be returned immediately upon completion of the inspection.

IV. METHOD

- A. Education for handling of Native American spiritual items according to this policy will be integrated into existing mandatory staff trainings – “Cultural Awareness” and “Search Policy and Procedures”.
- B. Cultural Awareness training shall include a presentation by the staff designated as Native American Spiritual Leader. Discussion will cover pertinent cultural practices as well as procedures for the handling and searching of Native American spiritual items.
- C. New Employee Search Policy and Procedures Review will also reflect this specific procedure for the handling of Native American spiritual items as well as any contraband recovered.
- D. When the Native American Spiritual Leader Is not available the assigned Staff sponsors will follow this Administrative Directive.



BEN MCLAIN
Executive Director (Acting)

Cross Reference(s):

A.D. No. 556 Search Policy and Procedures