

Policy for Medical Department

Regarding Medication

The Medical Department of the Lawrence County Correctional Facility will accept inmate medications under the following guidelines per our facility policy:

1. Medications are to be dropped off Monday through Friday between the hours of **8:00am – 9:00pm**. No weekend medication drop offs will be accepted by the facility unless it is approved by the medical department before hand. If you are coming into the facility to serve time on weekends, please contact the medical department beforehand to discuss your medical needs. This can be done by coming in person to the Sheriff Department and asking to speak with the Medical Department in regards to the situation of your medical needs during your time here at our facility.
2. This facility is a **NON NARCOTIC FACILITY**. There will be no narcotics accepted into this facility and if they are brought in with an individual at time of arrest, the individual has 48 hours to have the medication retrieved from the facility or it will be medically destroyed per our policy.
3. All medication will come in the appropriate bottles. This means it will have the correct inmate's name, drug name, dosage, instructions and fill date printed legible on the bottle. If this is not present, the medication will be rejected.
4. Inmates have access to supplies (i.e. Lotion, Contact Solution, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Triple Antibiotic Ointment, Hydrocortisone Cream, Denture Adhesive, Tooth Pain Gel, Shampoo and Conditioner, and Soap) made available on Commissary. There will be no acceptance of these items attempting to be dropped off unless the Medical Director and/or Nursing Staff has given prior approval to the Correctional Staff to do so.
5. All medications will be reviewed by the facility's Medical Provider prior to being administered. If it is rejected by the Provider, the inmate has 48 hours to have the medication retrieved from the facility or it will be destroyed by the Medical Department per our policy.
6. No other doctor/medical provider will be allowed to prescribe medications to inmates while at our facility. This includes having a medication dose altered while in jail by an outside provider when it comes time to refill their medications you are providing. It is unsafe practice for a medical provider to increase medications on a patient without seeing them and talking to them personally. There is a reason why we have an in house Medical Provider and the Medical Provider and the Medical Staff will be the only individuals allowed to make medication changes. While incarcerated, the facility Medical Provider will be the one to manage inmate's care.

7. Medical Department is **NOT ALLOWED** to discuss medical care with an inmate's family, this includes over the phone and in person. This is a violation of **HIPPA**. If you are dropping off medication for an inmate, do not question the Medical Staff about the condition of the inmate or ask the Medical Staff to pass messages to the inmate. This is a violation of facility policy. **DO NOT** call and leave voicemails asking the medical department to contact you back about a patient's condition. This is not allowed. These patients are over the age of 18 and in the custody of our facility. The only person the Medical Department will speak to regarding a patient's care is the Medical Provider. Family members cannot hold Power of Attorney over an inmate in regards to medical treatment and information while incarcerated. They are the responsibility of this facility and the State of Tennessee.

While we do understand the worry that accompanies when someone you know becomes incarcerated, we would like to take this time to give you some helpful tips to make this transition more easy.

1. If you have spoken with the inmate who is incarcerated and they have **CURRENT** medical issues, please encourage them to write a Medical Request to the department. This helps alert us to what is going on and gives us documentation of the complaint.
2. If the inmate takes medication on a daily basis and has supply at home, please bring up these medications as it will help us maintain the continuity of care and prevents the inmate from having to go without medication.
3. If the inmate does take medication but does not have supply at home, please encourage them to write a Medical Request with the most current pharmacy so that we may call and get verification of these medications.

These few tips will help greatly in getting medications initiated and medical conditions assessed.

Thank You,

Lawrence County Medical Department