

JUVENILE COURT HEALTH SERVICES

		Page 1	Of 2
Subject: MEDICAL HOUSING UNIT		Original Issue Date: 3/31/10	Policy # B-104
		Supersedes: 2/8/2019	Effective Date: 5/8/2021
Departments Consulted:	Approved By: (Signature on File) Health Services Administrator (Signature on File) Nursing Director	Approved by: (Signature on File) Medical Director	

PURPOSE

To define the scope of the care provided in the Medical Housing Unit.

POLICY

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) and the Probation Department jointly maintain medically sheltered/observation housing at the juvenile halls. This housing is known as a Medical Housing Unit (MHU). The MHU is not considered Infirmiry care because the level of care provided is similar to home care.

Youth are admitted to the MHU by JCHS staff for care consistent with general pediatric outpatient care including but not limited to sheltering youth with fever, post-operative recovery once discharged from a hospital, frequent medication administration or dressing changes and other conditions requiring more frequent nurse observation or care.

DEFINITION

Medical Housing Unit (MHU): a designated area within a Juvenile Hall to provide sheltered housing or observation of youth under the direction of a physician or nurse.

Examples of care provided in the MHU include, but are not limited to, patients with frequent medication administration, dietary restriction due to lab or pre-operative requirements, patients with wired jaws, patients recovering from procedures, cohort or removal from the general population due to illness. Higher levels of medical care such as IV therapy or cardio-respiratory monitoring will be referred to an outside facility.

PROCEDURE

- Youth are placed in the MHU by a licensed health care professional.
- Any youth requiring more than 24 hours in the MHU will need a physician's order.
- A physician rounds daily with a nurse to see all youth housed in the MHU.

DISTRIBUTION: Juvenile Court Health Services Policy and Procedure Manual

JUVENILE COURT HEALTH SERVICES

Subject: MEDICAL HOUSING UNIT	Effective Date: 5/8/2021	Policy # B-104
	Medical Director's Initials: (Initials on File)	

- If a physician is not present at the facility, there will be telephonic rounds for all youth housed medically in a MHU. The facility's MHU nurse will provide a daily report on patient status to the physician via phone by end of the Day Shift. The physician will document recommendations in the medical record and will provide the MHU nurse with orders if needed to continue appropriate patient care.
- At a minimum of once per shift, the nurse performs assessments of all youth housed in the MHU under the direction of health services. Abnormal findings are reported to a physician for evaluation and further care according to existing policy and procedure.
- Youth requiring sheltered housing for mental health or other reasons are housed elsewhere in the facility by Probation.
- Care provided in the medical housing unit is documented in the youth's medical record at the time care is delivered.
- When the youth is ready to return back to the general residential unit, a Medical Status Form may be completed to send back to the youth's unit for Probation's reference for follow-up instructions.

AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Article 8, Section 1411

REFERENCE

NCCHC Standard Y-G-02, Y-G-03

REVIEW DATES

October 26, 2017; February 8, 2019; May 8, 2021