

Charleston/Dorchester Community  
Mental Health Center

Policy Regarding Physician-provision of Medication Prescriptions  
for  
Non-Center Patients

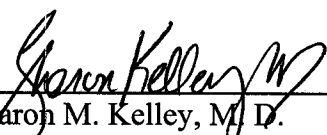
Physicians when working for the Center, whether employees of the Center or those who render contractual services, shall provide prescriptions for medication only for persons who have an open medical record at the Center. At all times these physicians shall use prescription forms of the Center only for patients with open medical records at the Center.


An exception regarding prescriptions for "open medical records only," applies to Center physicians who are providing contracted services to other agencies in behalf of the Center. In some special cases, clinical services are provided in that agency but clinical documentation occurs in that agency's records, not this mental health center's.

Inherent in writing a prescription are medical status issues, physician-patient relationship issues, documentation issues, follow-up responsibility issues, and liability issues. Serious concerns arise with each of these issues when a prescription is written for a person (e.g., friends, colleagues) with whom the physician does not have a formal, ongoing, physician-patient relationship.

It should be particularly noted that professional liability coverage does not apply when a Center physician writes a prescription for a non-Center patient and probably would not apply for contract physicians and their own coverage.

Violations of this policy shall be reported to the Medical Director who will take appropriate action.

 2/24/00  
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Sharon M. Kelley, M.D.                      Date  
Medical Director

 2/24/00  
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Thomas G. Hiers, Ph. D.                      Date  
Executive Director