

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 5/28/19	NUMBER: A-08.1 Page 1 of 2
	Replaces: 5/20/16	
	Formulated: 10/85	
	Reviewed: 04/2022	
DECISION MAKING FOR SERIOUS MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS		

PURPOSE: To assure that a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) is involved in decisions relative to housing, program assignments, disciplinary measures, and transfers of inmates with a mental illness.

POLICY: Decisions relative to housing and program assignments, disciplinary measures, and transfers of inmates with a mental illness are in accordance with TDCJ Classification.

Special considerations are required for inmates with a mental illness charged with or suspected of disciplinary infractions. Mental health input is obtained prior to disciplinary procedures being taken against inmates receiving mental health services.

DEFINITIONS: Serious Mental Illness - Psychotic Disorders, Bipolar Disorders, and Major Depressive Disorder; any diagnosed mental disorder (excluding substance use disorders) currently associated with serious impairment in psychological, cognitive, or behavioral functioning that substantially interferes with the person’s ability to meet the ordinary demands of living and requires an individualized treatment plan by a qualified mental health professional(s).

Psychological – *as relating to the mental and emotional state of an individual.*
Cognitive – *as relating to cognitive or intellectual abilities.*
Behavioral – *as relating to actions or reactions in response to external or internal stimuli that is observable and measurable.*

PROCEDURES:

- I. The restrictions module in the electronic health record (EHR) is updated by mental health services or medical staff and reviewed by the Classification Committee for all inmates prior to housing and program assignments.
- II. Prior to disciplinary measures being taken against inmates with a mental illness, the provisions of TDCJ Administrative Directive 06.56 “Procedures for Handling Inmates Identified as Suicide Risks” must be followed.
- III. Mental health services staff is expressly prohibited from performing any type of forensic evaluation that involves determining sanity at the time of the alleged offense or competency to understand legal procedures. Mental health staff input is, however, required as part of the disciplinary process for each inmate with a serious mental illness.
- IV. The need for mental health input into the disciplinary process for each inmate with a mental illness will be assessed by a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP).

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Documentation of the need for mental health input will be made in the patient’s restrictions module in EHR, which feeds into the health summary for Classification.

V. Disciplinary cases for any patient identified as requiring mental health input will be forwarded to mental health staff prior to any disciplinary action being taken. The Mental Health Disciplinary Review Form (Attachment A) shall be completed by a QMHP.

If the QMHP indicates on the Mental Health Disciplinary Review Form there is no input from mental health services relevant to the processing of the disciplinary case, the case may be processed in accordance with the TDCJ Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Inmates.

However, if the QMHP determines that the mental health services department has relevant input to provide, the mental health services department must be consulted for specific input before proceeding with the disciplinary process. The security disciplinary review team members are encouraged to discuss with a mental health representative any concerns or questions they may have about an individual inmate’s case as warranted.

VI. Any determinations or recommendations by the QMHP are not to be construed as “clearing” the case of concerns related to sanity or competency, as that type of evaluation is expressly prohibited (see Correctional Managed Health Care Policy I-68.3).

VII. An entry will be made in the electronic health record (EHR) reflecting the QMHP’s input into the disciplinary process. The disciplinary case will be returned to the disciplinary hearing officer (or designee) along with the attached Mental Health Disciplinary Review Form (Attachment A).

VIII. The Mental Health Services Disciplinary Review Form (Attachment A) will be used for the processing of all disciplinary cases involving designated mental health patients.

Reference: ACI 5th Edition
AD 06.56, Procedures For Handling Inmates Identified As Suicide Risks
ACA Standard 5-ACI-6C-06 (Ref. 4-4399)
CMHC Policy I-68.3