

Assignment of Health Status Designations

Skill Level: RN, LPN

Definition: For temporary authorization for necessary Health Status Designations where patient is thought to have a bona fide medical need for designations such as stair or bunk restrictions.

<p>Subjective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I need a low bunk, my ankle is broken." • "I'm in a wheelchair and I can't use stairs." • "I want an extra blanket." • "I need my work restrictions extended." 	<p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible need for Health Status restriction based on objective findings.
<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is reasonable objective evidence that the patient should be considered for one or more of the following Health Status entries: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Low Bunk b. No Stairs and/or Lower Tier c. No Work or Work Restriction d. Use of an appliance such as a wheelchair, cane, or walker. e. Use of special self care supplies such as catheters, dressing supplies, etc. f. Use of an orthotic appliance such as a brace, cast, or splint. g. Other restrictions should only be placed in effect with a written or verbal order by a medical provider. 	<p>Plan: At nursing discretion may use any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write and sign an order in the chart on the Order Sheet for a nursing protocol order to be signed later by the medical provider. • Document clearly in the chart note the objective reason for the entry. • The order should extend for two weeks with the possibility of a second renewal, for a total of four weeks' restriction. • Make an entry in the Health Status section on the DOC 400. • Notify patient. Be sure patient understands that your order can only be short term. • Schedule medical provider chart review within one week to sign the order and/or to make any additional orders.

Nursing Education:

1. Health Services personnel serve a vital function in the institution by caring for the health care needs of inmates. Frequently inmates make requests that have little or nothing to do with the provision of health care. Our patients know that Health Services holds a privileged status in the institution by our being able to alter the rules for them.
2. All nursing and medical personnel take this privilege seriously and only extend restrictions and privileges to patients who have a genuine objective need.
3. Documentation is essential for consistent and appropriate care.
4. Do not extend orders for special restrictions or privileges for more than four weeks total. A medical provider should be aware of the situation and extend the order if it is medically necessary.
5. Extensions should not exceed one year for any Health Status entry. Special restrictions or privileges should be reviewed by the provider once a year no matter how obvious the need may seem to be.

APPROVED:

Medical Services Manager

Date

Chief Medical Officer

Date

Steve Shelton M.D.

2/24/2015

Medical Director

Date

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