



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH POLICY/PROCEDURE

SUBJECT PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS AND LABORATORY SERVICES IN FIELD CAPABLE CLINICAL SERVICES (FCCS) PROGRAMS	POLICY NO. 202.33	EFFECTIVE DATE 11/8/2007	PAGE 1 of 3
APPROVED BY:  <div style="text-align: right;">Director</div>	SUPERSEDES N/A	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE 11/8/2007	DISTRIBUTION LEVEL(S) 2

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To describe the processes for recommending, prescribing, or furnishing medications and ordering laboratory tests for clients who participate in Field Capable Clinical Services programs outside of the traditional mental health clinic.

POLICY

2.1 Field Capable Clinical Services

The term Field Capable Clinical Services (FCCS) refers to specialized mental health programs designed to meet the unique needs of older adults, ages sixty (60) and above who are eligible for program participation. Funded through the Mental Health Services Act, these services provided by multi-disciplinary teams are delivered at least sixty (60) percent of the time outside the traditional mental health clinic in community-based locations often preferred by older adults, such as client homes, senior centers, senior housing complexes, and health care provider offices.

POLICY

- 3.1 In order to improve access to needed mental health services, FCCS for older adults are provided in community-based settings consistent with recommendations set forth through the Mental Health Services Act stakeholder process for the Community Services and Support Plan.
- 3.2 DMH directly-operated and contract agencies provide FCCS in a variety of community-based settings across the County of Los Angeles.

PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Prescription Medications and Laboratory Tests in Health Care Provider Settings



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- 4.1.1 FCCS physicians and/or nurse practitioners may provide consultation to the health care provider to enable that provider to integrate mental health treatment with the physical health care of a particular client. In this case, medications or laboratory tests may be recommended by the FCCS physicians and/or nurse practitioners to the health care provider, but the actual prescription or laboratory test order is written by the health care provider. The health care provider will assume responsibility for all prescriptions and laboratory tests ordered.
- 4.1.1.1 The mechanism for filling prescriptions and obtaining specimens for laboratory analysis will be in accordance with health care provider agency protocols.
- 4.1.2 When the health care provider believes that their client's mental health care is beyond their expertise, clients may be referred to the FCCS physician and/or nurse practitioner agrees to assume direct responsibility for delivery of mental health medication services, then the FCCS physician and/or nurse practitioner may write a medication prescription or order laboratory tests. The FCCS staff will assume responsibility for the billing of all prescriptions and laboratory tests ordered by the FCCS physician and/or nurse practitioner.
- 4.1.2.1 Prescriptions for indigent clients are entered, managed and reimbursed through the DMH medication system or taken to a DMH affiliated pharmacy for dispensing. When a client is unable to make arrangements to pick up a medication from a pharmacy, attempts shall be made to arrange for the pick up and/or delivery of medication, as appropriate, directly to the client.
- 4.1.3 Clients for whom laboratory test have been ordered by the FCCS physician and/or nurse practitioner will be referred to the nearest Quest Laboratory (Quest) office. The laboratory order form may be completed by the FCCS physician and/or nurse practitioner and given to the client to take to the Quest office, as appropriate.



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4.1.3.1 The location of the nearest laboratory office may be accessed by going to the Quest web site located at: <http://www.questdiagnostics.com/index.html> (or currently contracted laboratory). This information may also be obtained by telephoning: (800) 377-8448.

4.1.3.2 If the client is unable to make arrangements to go to the nearest Quest (or currently contracted laboratory), attempts shall be made by the FCCS staff to arrange for transportation to the laboratory.

4.2 Prescription Medications and Laboratory Tests in Other (non-health care provider) Field-Based Settings

4.2.1 In situations where the FCCS physicians and/or nurse practitioner makes a field-based, non-health care provider setting visit that results in the prescribing or furnishing of medication or the ordering of laboratory tests, refer to Section 4.1 for a description of the process to be followed.

AUTHORITY

DMH Policy

REVIEW DATE

This policy shall be reviewed on or before 2010.