

# Stark County Sheriffs' Office



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## **Policies to Use Medication in the Jail that your Defendant or Family already have**

4500 Atlantic Blvd NE – Canton, Ohio 44705

# Stark County Jail



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- Full-Service Jail located in Stark County
  - 24 hour a day booking facility for all law enforcement agencies in Stark County
- The jail operational capacity is 501 inmates
  - 9,154 individuals were booked in 2013
    - 6,939 males
    - 2,215 females
    - Average Length of Stay is 19 days

# Can Inmates Provide Their Own Medications?



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## ■ Jail Standards for Full-Service Facilities

5120:1-10-09

(J) (Essential) Pharmaceuticals. Pharmaceuticals are managed in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Health Authority and in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and include the following:

(1) The policies require dispensing and administering prescribed medications by health-trained personnel or professionally trained personnel, adequate management of controlled medications, and provisions of medication to inmates in special management units.

(2) The jail shall develop a policy, approved by the Health Authority, regarding incoming medications.

# The Pro's of Accepting Meds From the Outside



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- Cost
- Reduces Verification Time
- Continuity of Care

# Issues for Jails to Consider RE: Medications



## ■ Verification

- Refers to the process of verifying if an inmate is currently prescribed and/or **taking**
  - 20% of all first-time Rx's are not filled (Harvard)
  - Without medical records of prescribing physician (or physician verification), medication may be discontinued—even though the date is current
  - There may be multiple prescribers and many times they do not know of each other

# Issues for Jails to Consider RE: Medications



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- Authorization
  - Refers to the process of reviewing the inmate's verified medications
    - Deciding what meds will be given in jail
    - Not always appropriate to give meds that are given on the outside
- Factors that determine the meds that are authorized
  - Does the Jail's Formulary allow this med(s)
  - Are there generic or substitutions?
  - Is the Jail Physician more familiar with different meds?
  - Does the inmate still need the medication while in jail?

# Issues for Jails to Consider RE: Medications



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- Factors that determine the meds that are allowed into jail (from the outside)
  - Size of jail's medical staff
  - Makeup of jail staffing (all don't have 24 hr. nursing)
  - Sophistication of the pharmacy system and nursing staff to identify the medications
  - Technology to identify medications
  - The Risk Analysis of Contraband

# Issues for Jails to Consider RE: Medications



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- Why are outside medications seen as contraband?
  - Anytime a foreign substance is brought into a secured facility the ability for it to be contraband is **HIGH**
    - Pills are laced with other drugs
    - Capsule's contents are replaced with usually illegal drugs
    - Pills can actually be manufactured to look-like other medications
    - If liquid, how can you be sure what is in it?
    - What to do with accepted meds but not authorized?
      - Especially if narcotic

# Questions?



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