Policies to Use Medication in the Jail that your Defendant or Family already have
Stark County Jail

- 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?

- 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

- 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

- 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?
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
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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