



VOLUME 9: PHARMACY SERVICES	Effective Date: 05/2007
CHAPTER 34	Revision Date: 03/2016
9.34 HEAT ALERT MEDICATIONS PROCEDURE	Attachments: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. PROCEDURE OVERVIEW

Heat alert medications can pose a serious patient health risk during times of extreme heat by impairing the body’s ability to regulate temperature (poikilothermy). The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) takes special precautions to prevent heat-related illness in patients taking medication which has the potential to impair thermoregulation. These special precautions are documented in a CDCR Heat Plan that is enforced from May 1 through October 31 each year and whenever temperatures warrant.

II. DEFINITIONS

Protected Health Information: Information created or received by California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) which identifies or can be used to identify an individual as it relates to past, present, or future health conditions; health care services provided to the individual; or health care related payments. This applies to information that is transmitted or maintained in verbal, paper, or electronic form.

III. PURPOSE

To ensure adequate identification of patients who are at risk of developing heat related illness due to their prescribed medications in order that the institutional heat plan can be implemented.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. CCHCS Pharmacy Services in coordination with the Statewide Chief Psychiatrist and the Deputy Director, Medical Services, or designee is responsible for developing and maintaining a list of heat alert medications which shall be reviewed and updated annually by the CCHCS Systemwide Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee.

1. The Chief of Pharmacy Services shall ensure that all heat related medications included in the annual statewide Heat Alert Medication List are appropriately identified in the Electronic Health Record System for purposes of the Heat Alert Medication Report.
2. The current list of approved heat alert medications is available on the CCHCS Lifeline Pharmacy Services web page within the Resources section.

B. Heat Alert Medication List

1. Institution staff shall not alter the Heat Alert Medication List.
2. Any recommendation to add or remove a drug from the CDCR Heat Alert Medication List shall be submitted with the proper justification to the CCHCS Systemwide P&T Committee for review.

C. Patient Heat Alert Medication Report

1. Under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the patient Heat Alert Medication Report must be:

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- a. Generated by the Correctional Health Services Administrator (CHSA) or CEO designee at least once per week from May 1 through October 31 each year and whenever temperatures warrant.
 - b. Distributed to designated health care and custody staff per the local operating procedure.
2. Under the direction of the CEO, the institution CHSA or CEO designee shall provide both a detailed and a non-detailed Heat Alert Medication Report of all patients currently prescribed any of the listed heat alert medications.
- a. The detailed report, which contains Protected Health Information, shall be distributed to designated health care personnel so clinical staff can monitor patients to identify those who may require specific follow-up health care or a change in drug therapy due to a heat alert medication. The detailed report shall include:
 - 1) The patient's name, CDCR number, current housing, and name of each heat alert medication he/she is receiving.
 - 2) Depot or long-acting injectable formulations of heat alert medications shall remain on the report for 30 days following discontinuation of the medication order.
 - b. The non-detailed report shall be provided to designated custody staff to locate all patients who are on designated heat alert medication(s) during heat plan activation. The non-detailed report shall:
 - 1) Include the patient's name, CDCR number, and the patient's current housing.
 - 2) **Not** include the names of the prescribed heat alert medications to protect the patient's privacy.

V. REFERENCES

- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Subtitle A, Subchapter C, Part 160, Subpart A, Section 160.103 - Definitions
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Subtitle A, Subchapter C, Part 164, Subpart E, Section 164.501 - Definitions, Section 164.502 - Uses and disclosures of protected health information: General rules, and Section 164.506 - Uses and Disclosures to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations
- Approved Heat Alert Medication List located at the following link under the Forms tab: <http://lifeline/HealthCareOperations/MedicalServices/Pharmacy/Pages/Resources.aspx>