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HEALTH CARE SERVICES DIRECTIVE-ADULT Manual of Policies and Procedures		7/1/2022	2	2.30A

Title
DEMENTIA AND COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT SCREENING

Legal References (includes but is not limited to)	Related Policies/Procedures (includes but is not limited to)	Other References (includes but is not limited to)
IC 11-8-2-5	01-02-101	National Correctional Healthcare Standards

I. PURPOSE:

This Health Care Services Directive (HCSD) establishes guidelines for facilities regarding the routine screening to identify dementia and cognitive impairment.

II. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT:** Any impairment in perceptual, learning, memory, linguistic, or thinking abilities.
- B. **DEMENTIA:** General term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that are severe enough to interfere with daily life.
- C. **MINI-MENTAL STATUS EXAMINATION (MMSE):** A tool used by qualified health care professionals to test cognitive function among patients that include tests of orientation, attention, memory, language, and visual-spatial skills. This testing include four components: appearance, behavior, cognition, and thought process.

III. GUIDELINES:

- A. Routine screening for dementia and cognitive impairment will occur on Intake and during annual health screens for patients aged 55 and older, and as clinically indicated.
- B. Qualified health care professionals shall utilize the MMSE screening tool in the electronic medical record (EMR) to assess patients for signs of dementia and cognitive impairment.
- C. Patients with symptoms of dementia, cognitive impairment (e.g., if there are two or more areas of daily life affected, such as access to commissary, meal times, medication times, or general activities, or whose scores are 25 or less on the MMSE shall be referred to the provider for further evaluation and

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examination in accordance with HCSD 2.01A, "Access to Care." A patient with a three-point decrease from previous screening tools shall also require a referral to the provider for evaluation and treatment.

- D. If scores are above 25, but there is continued concern, the health care professional shall refer the patient to the clinician for further evaluation.

IV. APPLICABILITY:

This HCSD is applicable to all facilities providing Health Services to incarcerated adults.

signature on file
Kristen Dauss
Chief Medical Officer

Date