AMBULATORY SERVICES IN THE TDCJ HOSPITAL

Audience

All TDCJ Hospital Personnel

Policy

The goal of the TDCJ Hospital Ambulatory Services is to operate a secure facility for the provision of outpatient ambulatory care to the offender patients of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Procedure

I. The TDCJ outpatient clinics provide tertiary health care for patients on an ambulatory basis who have received primary care from their unit physicians and require specialized care not provided in the TDCJ system. Referrals are received from TDCJ physicians, reviewed and prioritized by Correctional Managed Care for the purpose of scheduling clinic appointments in accordance with the patient's medical needs.

II. The TDCJ Hospital outpatient clinics serve as teaching facilities for postgraduate and undergraduate medical, nursing, physician assistants, and health professions students.

III. The TDCJ Hospital outpatient clinics support all medical and nursing research projects appropriate to the offender patient population and/or hospital staff.

IV. The goals of the TDCJ Hospital Ambulatory Services area include:

A. Expeditious entry of patients into the UTMB healthcare delivery system through Correctional Managed Care.

B. Timely and effective delivery of services to patients utilizing all departmental services available on the UTMB campus.

C. Delivery of the same standards of quality that applies to all inpatient cared for in the UTMB Hospitals.

D. A clinical environment, which facilitates the training of Healthcare practitioners and supports clinical research.

E. An effective patient education program.

F. Collaborate with TDCJ Health Services, Security, UTMB Administration, and Medical Staff, to assure quality service is rendered.

G. Allocation of resources based on the health care needs of the TDCJ population not available in the TDCJ system, and the availability and access to those services at UTMB.

Scope of Care

V. The scope of services at TDCJ Hospital is intended to provide care required within the confines of a secure environment. Special services not available in the TDCJ Hospital are available to TDCJ patients at UTMB.

VI. Performance of services is evaluated by the collection of statistics provided to administrative and clinical personnel to determine needs. Adjustment is made according to the collaboration of the appropriate groups. The mission statement and plan for the scope of services are reviewed on an annual basis and changes are made when necessary.

VII. Responsibility for the delivery of care:

Medical Director

A. Overall Direction: The outpatient clinics in the TDCJ Hospital are under the overall direction of the Hospital Galveston Medical Director.

B. Responsibilities of the Hospital Galveston Medical Director of Ambulatory Services include:
   1. Oversight of the functions of the outpatients department and assure appropriate integration of other departments and services of the UTMB campus when required.
   2. Assures that policies and procedures of patient care are consistent throughout the outpatient clinics to ensure quality of care.
   3. Periodically, reviews and evaluates the provision of ambulatory care services in the TDCJ Hospital.
   4. Assures ongoing assessment of needs and actions to meet those needs.