

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN 5:02

DATE: December 14, 1982

SUBJECT: Patients' Prosthetic Devices  
Applicability: H

I. Policy

- A. All patients admitted to a State psychiatric hospital shall be encouraged to keep and use their prosthetic devices, and other personal possessions, including dentures, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and orthopedic devices, except for good cause.
- B. Patients shall be evaluated annually to determine their need for prosthetic devices.


II. Provision of Prosthetic Devices

- A. All patients admitted to a State psychiatric hospital shall be given physical examinations to determine the condition of their eyes, teeth, hearing and feet.
- B. If the examining physician determines that justification exists for recommending eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids, orthopedic devices, or other prosthetic devices, this shall be promptly noted on the patient's chart for earliest possible action.
- C. Generally, patients should be in the hospital for at least one month before eyeglasses are provided and three months before dentures are provided. However, each case must be considered separately with the goal of making the patient's stay in the hospital as beneficial and normal as possible. Improvement of the state of health and well-being of the patient shall be of primary importance in such considerations.
- D. A patient, or his/her representative, may also request that the patient be provided with a prosthetic device. A decision by a physician not to recommend purchase of a device requested by a patient or a patient's representative shall be treated as a removal or restriction of the device, and the procedures outlined in Section C below shall be followed.

III. Removal or Restriction of Prosthetic Devices

- A. All patients shall retain their prosthetic devices unless a physician issues an order fully justifying the reason and length of time they should be removed or restricted.

- B. A physician may remove or restrict a patient's use of a prosthetic device only for good cause.
- C. A removal or restriction order shall be accompanied by a written explanation filed in the patient's chart.
  - 1. Removal or restriction orders will be effective for a maximum period of thirty days, but may be renewed for additional thirty day periods.
  - 2. The patient, his/her attorney and his/her guardian (if the patient is legally incompetent) shall be notified of each removal or restriction order.

  
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