I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services, to provide pharmacy services as needed or appropriate to the youth population. These services shall be provided in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations regarding the procurement, management, and security of all pharmaceuticals and the regulations regarding the prescribing and administering of all pharmaceuticals. (4-JCF-4C-28)

Under no circumstances shall stimulants, tranquilizers or psychotropic drugs be administered for purposes of discipline, security control or for purposes of experimental research. (4-JCF-4C-30)

II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy and procedure, the following definitions apply:

**Automatic Stop Order** - a practice that predetermines when a prescribed drug order is discontinued unless reordered by the physician.

**Controlled Substance** – is any drug that falls in the schedule of I, II, III, IV or V medications of the Federal Food and Drug Act.

**Open Formulary** – The prescriber shall determine which medication is best suited to the youth’s condition. There are no restrictions placed on the prescriber when choosing a medication.

**Prescriber** - Any health care professional that is authorized by his/her respective licensure to prescribe medications.

**Terminal Distributor’s License** - The license, issued by the Mississippi State Board of Pharmacy to the responsible pharmacist which mandates compliance with all State and Federal laws regulating pharmacy practices and the distribution of medications.
III. PROCEDURE

A. A contracted pharmacy provider shall serve as the primary supply source for pharmaceuticals and related medical supplies.

B. Refer to the following policies:
   - Medical and Dental Instruments and Sharps Management, XI.7
   - Pharmaceutical Prescribing, Procurement, Administration and Documentation, XI.30
   - Pharmaceutical Receipt, Storage, Inventory, and Disposal Management, XI.31
   - Use and Management of Psychotropic Medication, XI.32

These policies are established by the Director of Medical Services to minimally address the following: (4-JCF-4C-28, 4-JCF-4C-29, 4-JCF-4C-30)

1. An open formulary, as provided by the contract with the outside pharmaceutical company, will be the practice for the facility prescription practices:
   a. The clinician will choose the best drug for the youth, substitution for
   b. Therapeutic or generic equivalent will be with the practitioner’s permission.
   c. Medications are prescribed only when clinically indicated as one facet of a program of therapy,
      Medications are prescribed only by a health care practitioner licensed pursuant to federal and state law,
   d. Automatic “stop order” time periods for all medications,
   e. Psychotropic drugs, such as antipsychotic or antidepressants and other drugs used for psychiatric purposes, requiring parenteral administration are prescribed only by a physician and then only following a treatment plan. Such drugs are administered by the responsible Physician/Psychiatrist or licensed Nurse.
   h. The prescribing Physician/Dentist/Psychiatrist reevaluates a prescription before its renewal.

2. Procedures for medication procurement, receipt, storage, dispensing, administration or distribution, and disposal. Refer to the following policies:
   - Pharmaceutical Prescribing, Procurement, Administration and Documentation, XI.30
   - Pharmaceutical Receipt, Storage, Inventory, and Disposal Management, XI.31

3. Maximum security for storage of all medications, pharmaceuticals, and medical sharps, and periodic inventory of all controlled substances and syringes, needles, and other sharps. (4-JCF-4C-28)

4. Administration of medication by persons licensed, properly trained and
under the supervision of the Director of Medical Services. Administration
of medications shall be documented in a manner and on a form approved by the
Director of Medical Services.

5. Accountability for administering medications in a timely manner and according to
practitioner’s orders.

C. Licensing: the facility is responsible for maintaining the required Pharmacy
Licenses. The facility must maintain a permit for the storage of controlled
pharmaceuticals and a permit for the storage and security of controlled substances.
The Director of Medical Services/designee shall maintain a current copy of all applicable
licenses noting expiration dates.

D. The Director of Medical Services shall revise this policy as necessary.