Purpose:

To give the Emergency Care Provider guidelines to follow when called to the City of West Des Moines Law Enforcement Center’s holding facility to assist prisoners with self administration of prescription medication(s).

Policy:

Assist law enforcement officer(s) with identification and assisting prisoner’s with self administration of prescription medication when requested.

A Physician’s Desk Reference (PDR) or similar electronic reference will be available in the holding facility to assist the emergency care providers with identification of medications.

If at any time the emergency care provider feels uncomfortable with the situation, questions the medication(s), questions why the medication is indicated or the dose the patient wishes to take or is unable to identify the medication, the patient (prisoner) shall be transported to Broadlawns Medical Center for further medical screening. Transportation to the hospital may be provided by law enforcement or EMS, which ever method is feasible and determined by public safety staff.

Procedure:

1. Respond to the scene in non-emergency mode.
2. Obtain a medical history from the patient (prisoner) along with vital signs and patient assessment.
3. Obtain the medication(s) and examine the bottle(s).
4. Reference the medication via Physician’s Desk Reference (PDR) or similar electronic reference or contact medical control if necessary.
5. Observe the patient (prisoner) self-administer the appropriate medication and dose.
6. Obtain a refusal of transport signature by patient (prisoner) along with a witness signature from a law enforcement officer who is present.
7. Complete a patient care report in the appropriate electronic charting software as standard.