

Eden Aldrich, RNP

STANDING ORDER

Conscious Refusal of Food/Fluids

I. ASSESSMENT

- a. Information given to, or noted by, Medical that inmate has not eaten three consecutive meals.
- b. Have the inmate brought to the Medical unit each day for assessment of vital signs, temperature, hydration status and weight. Note gait and neurological integrity. Question about current eating patterns. Rule out medical cause for eating disorder. Determine inmate's reason for not eating. If inmate refuses assessment, request he/she sign a Refusal of Medical Treatment Form and Conscious Meal Refusal Form.
- c. If medical etiology negative, notify mental health specialist to complete mental health assessment. Mental health assessment will include suicidalities, self-harm, depression, anxiety, or psychosis. (Form 515)
- d. RN will notify on-duty corrections supervisor (Form 581).

2. MANAGEMENT

- a. Tray will be placed in cell, even if inmate states he/she does not want to eat. Intake will be logged (all, some, or none) after each meal. RN will assess physical status visually to determine if inmate appears stable, and will document in chart.
- b. If fast continues into third day, notify medical supervisor, and have labs drawn for Chem 14 Panel, CBC with Differential.
- c. If fast continues into third day, notify Mental Health Specialist to complete assessment.
- d. Call and report to SCMC Emergency Department, transport to hospital if inmate becomes unstable, or dehydrated at any time. Unstable would include: Abnormal vital signs, abnormal lab results, or change in level of consciousness. If fast continues discuss daily with Facility Provider.