

CAPT Corrections

CHAPTER NEWS

April 11, 2024

Corrections Alert Update:

CAPT Urges Caution and Advice: New Protocol for Refusal Form 7225

Recent events have revealed a concerning practice that endangers our professional integrity and puts our livelihoods at risk. Psychiatric Technicians have been tasked with completing CDCR 7225 (Refusal Form) for patients who refuse medical appointments, exposing us to potential disciplinary action and jeopardizing our licenses.

CAPT has relentlessly advocated for safe working conditions and preserving our profession's integrity. However, despite our efforts, PTs have faced unjust accusations of falsifying documentation when patients dispute their refusal of appointments. This unsound situation emphasizes the urgency of protecting ourselves from undue liability.

At a March 29 meeting, CDCR/CCHCS acknowledged CAPT's concerns. The department is developing a revised form that should address our issues. Until this updated form is available, CAPT advises PTs to exercise caution, using the following protocol:

If a patient signs the refusal form without contesting their refusal of treatment, PTs may sign the form and proceed with educating the patient on the consequences of their decision. However, if a patient lodges a complaint on the form, PTs must promptly document the complaint in the patient's chart. The chart documentation should include a statement that you did not witness the refusal, along with a brief description of the complaint reported by the patient. You should

notify your supervisor via email of your notation made in the patient's chart before signing the form.

CAPT recognizes the gravity of this situation and advises PTs to prioritize their safety and professional well-being. We will continue to support members who face repercussions for refusing this task, ensuring they are not unfairly penalized for management's oversights.

For questions or assistance, contact Northern Corrections Chapter President Kim Souza at norcalprez@psychtechs.net or (916) 955-4807 or Southern Corrections Chapter President Walter Lewis at socalprez@psychtechs.net or (760) 520-5159.

We can ensure that our rights are protected, hold management responsible, and maintain our professional integrity.

