

**NYC
HEALTH+
HOSPITALS**

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January 5, 2016

Martha W. King
Executive Director
NYC Board of Correction
51 Chambers Street, Room 923
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. King:

In accordance with the Board of Correction's New York City Correctional Health Care Minimum Standards, Section 3-13, "Variances," the Correctional Health Services division of the New York City Health + Hospitals requests the renewal, for a 6-month period, of a continuing variance from Section 3-08(c)(3) of the Minimum Standards, which prohibits, *inter alia*, health care personnel from reporting specific diagnoses to a chief correctional officer when reporting inmate health information necessary to protect the health and safety of the inmate or others. The variance, first granted by the Board on November 18, 2013, allows health care staff to provide the Department of Correction with specific diagnoses related only to injuries sustained by prisoners while in correctional custody; the reporting of diagnoses unrelated to an injury remains prohibited.

Since the granting of the variance, we have been providing DOC with the permitted injury information and we are confident that it has been an essential component of its investigations.

The consideration of the Board members and staff is greatly appreciated in this matter.

Sincerely,



George Axelrod
Correctional Health Services

c: Patsy Yang, DrPH
Homer Venters, MD