

Joseph Otonichar, DO
Chief of Service, Mental Health
Correctional Health Services
55 Water Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10041

October 30, 2024

Jasmine Georges-Yilla
Executive Director
NYC Board of Correction
2 Lafayette, Suite 1221
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Georges-Yilla:

In accordance with the Board of Correction's Mental Health Minimum Standards for New York City Correctional Facilities, the Correctional Health Services (CHS) division of NYC Health + Hospitals requests a 6-month renewal of a variance from Section 2-05 (b)(2)(i-ii) concerning psychotropic medication. The requested variance, first granted by the Board on November 10, 2005, authorizes psychiatrists to see and evaluate stable adult patients on psychotropic medication in general population every 28 days, rather than every 14 days.

As the Board has acknowledged, this medication variance helps to improve patient care. This variance will make the BOC psychotropic medication prescription standard more consistent with, while remaining more protective than, current community and correctional standards and practices. It provides the minimum frequency of visit scheduling while continuing to allow CHS to see patients at a greater frequency in response to individual patient need and risk, which is our practice. This variance has been in effect for almost two decades with no known cases of patients requiring hospitalization due to the 28-day standard.

The consideration of the Board members and staff of the requested variance regarding psychotropic medications for a period of six months is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Joseph Otonichar, DO
Correctional Health Services

cc: Patsy Yang, DrPH
Bipin Subedi, MD