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Amanda Masters
Executive Director
NYC Board of Correction
2 Lafayette, Suite 1221
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Masters:

In accordance with the Board of Correction's Mental Health Minimum Standards for New York City Correctional Facilities, Section 2-09 (Variances), the Correctional Health Services division of the NYC Health + Hospitals requests a 6-month renewal of a continuing variance from Section 2-05 (b)(2)(i-ii) concerning psychotropic medication. The 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 at least every 28 days, rather than every 14 days. As the Board has acknowledged, this variance helps to improve patient care and make the psychotropic medication prescription practices consistent with the current community standard.

In the almost seventeen years since the variance has been in effect, there have been no known cases of stable patients becoming unstable and requiring hospitalization due to the 28-day regimen.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross MacDonald".

Ross MacDonald, MD
Correctional Health Services

cc: Patsy Yang, DrPH