

Northern Affiliation

Protocol for Consents for Medication Treatment

When service recipients are prescribed psychotropic medications by a physician employed by, or under contract with, a Member Board, proper informed consent will be obtained from the recipient and/or the individual's guardian.

Informed consent shall include, at a minimum:

- ◆ A medication consent form will be signed by the individual, parent of a minor, or the legally empowered guardian, or phone permission will be obtained prior to a medication being administered.
- ◆ Individuals will be provided with verbal and written descriptions of a medication's name, uses, dosage (or dosage range) and possible side effects at the time the medication is prescribed.
- ◆ Individuals will be advised of the benefits as well as potential risks involved in the use of medication prescribed.
- ◆ Medications may be provided without an informed consent only when it is necessary to prevent physical injury to the individual or another, or when court ordered. Such initial administration of psychotropic medications without consent shall be limited to a period of 48 hours.
- ◆ Individuals will be informed, in writing, that they may revoke the consent at any time, either verbally or in writing.
- ◆ Medication consents will be obtained by appropriately credentialed medical staff.
- ◆ Medications may NOT be used for punishment or for staff convenience.
- ◆ Medication consents will include an expiration date.

Approved by the Operations Committee: September 6, 2006