

Clinical Assessment Guidelines for Jail Nurses

These guidelines, prepared for Jail Nurses, are designed to be a living document, written from a practical approach. Purposes of this document are to assure that health care for the incarcerated population is equivalent to community standards of practice and is in alignment with the American Nurses Association's *Nursing Code of Ethics* (2007).

These *Clinical Assessment Guidelines* are appropriate to the registered nurse's level of skill and preparation who implement them in compliance with his/her relevant state practice act. Similar to the National Commission of Correctional Health Care's (NCCHC) *Nursing Assessment Protocols*, these guidelines outline steps for evaluating an inmate's health status and provide suggestions for interventions.

As a living document, these guidelines may be tailored to meet individual facility or agency policies which are approved by the Medical Authority/Physician. *Clinical Assessment Guidelines for Jail Nurses* provide a framework for nursing action, and they are negotiable and modifiable when necessary.

The underlying goal in using this *Clinical Assessment Guideline* document is to assure that appropriate healthcare is provided to jail inmates.

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