

**Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center**  
Policies and Procedures

Subject: Patients Altering Written Prescriptions

Policy #: 6.9

Prepared by: Susan Hamel, Pharmacist

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## 6.9 Patients Altering Written Prescriptions

**OBJECTIVE:** To establish written guidelines for the discontinuance of treatment to patients who alter GSHWC prescriptions.

### I. **POLICY:**

1. All patients that alter prescriptions will be discharged from care at Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center's medical and dental clinic.
  - Reports of altered prescriptions must come to GSHWC from the filling pharmacy, law enforcement, a medical provider or a branch of local, state or federal government.
  - The GSHWC medical provider will be notified of the report and verify the patient name, date of birth, date of service, date on the prescription, medication type, dosage, and number.
  - In the absence of the writing provider the Medical or Acting Medical Director will verify the reported information.
  - If the information is verified, the Clinical Coordinator will contact the local police and report the alteration of a written prescription after he/she consults with the Pharmacist
  - The Pharmacist will also contact the pharmacy requesting that a pharmacy bulletin be circulated in order to notify other local pharmacies of further fraud.
  - Patient will be discharged following procedures in Policy 5.12.
2. Criteria for accepted appeal.
  - The patient will be informed in the certified letter that they may appeal this decision within 30 days of the postmark.
  - Proof that the patient was under threat of physical harm when altering the

medication and/or,

- Proof that the patient did not intend to alter the prescription, and

A unanimous agreement that the patient is innocent or low risk to repeat is the decision of the Chief Executive Officer with the Medical Director, Pharmacy Director, or Dental Director, and one other Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center staff person that has significant information regarding the situation (e.g. Social Worker, front desk staff, primary provider).