

## CONTRABAND (MEDICAL OBSERVATION)

Skill Level: RN

**Health Services staff is to ONLY attend to the patient's health care needs. Do not participate in any searches of the cell, the inmates, or bowel movements.**

<p><b>Subjective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inmate statement or security suspicion of sequestered or ingested balloon containing drugs, paraphernalia, or other contraband such as keys, razors, cell phones, etc.</li></ul>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alteration in health: Potential for alteration in homeostasis—changes in vital signs or mental status.</li><li>• Risk for injury from toxic drug ingestion or sequestered foreign body.</li></ul>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elicit type of drugs or contraband suspected as ingested or sequestered, how packaged, number of packages.</li><li>• Vitals, level of consciousness, behavior all similar to previously.</li><li>• No tachycardia, elevated blood pressure, respiratory depression, changes in mental status, including agitation, confusion, etc. This may be evidence that ingested drugs have become systemically absorbed (e.g. broken balloon of drug).</li><li>• Intact balloon(s) passed.</li></ul>	<p><b>Plan:</b> At nursing discretion may use any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obtain nursing assessment for baseline information (vitals, mentation, etc.)</li><li>• Initial vital signs and recheck periodically prn.</li><li>• Notify practitioner of any ill effects.</li><li>• <b>Invasive cavity searches including rectal or vaginal exams will not be done unless clearly in the medical best interests of the patient.</b></li><li>• If suspect potentially fatal intoxicant, consider infirmary placement for observation even if vitals and mental status are stable.</li><li>• If patient vitals or mental status are not stable, a balloon may have broken. Prepare for immediate emergency transport and call provider for further advice if needed.</li></ul>

