## State of California Office of Administrative Law

In re: Department of State Hospitals

**Regulatory Action:** 

Title 09, California Code of Regulations

Adopt sections: Amend sections: 4350 Repeal sections: NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY REGULATORY ACTION

Government Code Sections 11346.1 and 11349.6

OAL Matter Number: 2018-0102-02

OAL Matter Type: Emergency (E)

The Department of State Hospitals is amending section 4350 of title 9 of the California Code of Regulations to address the possession, viewing, and distribution of illicit materials by removing digital memory storage, other means of memory storage, specified digital media players, and digital media burners from the personal possession of patients. Additionally, commercially produced CDs and DVDs and players without access to the internet will be permitted, but those that are not commercially produced and game systems with access to the internet will be prohibited. Finally, the amendments allow hospitals to provide digital media on a supervised basis.

OAL approves this emergency regulatory action pursuant to sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code.

This emergency regulatory action is effective on 1/12/2018 and will expire on 7/12/2018. The Certificate of Compliance for this action is due no later than 7/11/2018.

Date: January 11, 2018

aad J. Gibson

Senior Attorney

For: Debra M. Cornez Director

Original: Pamela Ahlin, Director Copy: Amy Whiting

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## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS**

## EMERGENCY REGULATION TEXT Electronic Patient Property

California Code of Regulations Title 9. Rehabilitative and Developmental Services Division 1. Department of Mental Health Chapter 16. State Hospital Operations Article 3. Safety and Security

Amend section 4350, title 9, California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

[Note: Set forth is the amendments to the proposed emergency regulatory language. The amendments are shown in <u>underline</u> to indicate additions and <del>strikeout</del> to indicate deletions from the existing regulatory text.]

## § 4350. Contraband Electronic Devices with Communication and Internet Capabilities.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (d), patients are prohibited from having personal access to, possession, or on-site storage of the following items:

(1) Electronic devices with the capability to connect to a wired (for example, Ethernet, Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS), Fiber Optic) and/or a wireless (for example, Bluetooth, Cellular, Wi-Fi [802.11a/b/g/n], WiMAX)-communications network to send and/or receive information are prohibited, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Desktop computers; laptop computers; single-board computers or motherboards such as "Raspberry Pi;" cellular or satellite phones; personal digital assistant (PDA); graphing calculators; and satellite, shortwave, CB and GPS radios.

(D) Devices devices without native capabilities that can be modified for network communication. The modification may or may not be supported by the product vendor and may be a hardware and/or software configuration change. Some examples of the prohibited devices include desktop computers, laptop

computers, cellular phones, electronic gaming devices, personal digital assistant (PDA), graphing calculators, and radios (satellite, shortwave, CB and GPS).

(2) Digital media recording devices, including but not limited to CD, DVD, Blu-Ray burners.

(3) Voice or visual recording devices in any format.

(4) Items capable of memory storage, including but not limited to:

 (A) Any device capable of accessible digital memory or remote memory access.
 (B) Recordable disks, including but not limited to CDs, DVDs, Blu-Ray, and CD-ROM

(C) Universal Serial Bus (USB) devices, also known as flash drives or thumb drives.

(D) Hard drives, subscriber identity module (SIM) cards, secure digital (SD) drives or cards, micro-secure digital drives or cards (MicroSD), compact flash drives, secure digital high capacity (SDHC), secure digital extended capacity (SHXC), and other similar insertable memory devices.

(E) Gaming devices with digital memory storage ability, the ability to access the internet, or the ability to play games or other media not specifically designed for the device or only able to be played on that particular gaming device as provided by an approved third-party vendor.

(F) Floppy disks, hard disks, and vertical helical scan or video home system (VHS) cassettes.

(b) Electronic items patients are permitted to possess or have personal access to include:

(1) One (1) television or computer monitor; one (1) DVD, Blu-ray, or similar player; one (1) CD player; and one (1) radio or music player. These items shall not have internet, external communication, or wireless communication capability.

(2) No more than thirty (30) commercially manufactured and unmodified CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Rays received in factory-original packaging in a patient's room or unit storage. Patient may store additional manufactured and unmodified CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Rays in off-unit storage. (3) Tablets or other devices designed for confined individuals through authorized vendors of the Department of State Hospitals and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(c) Nothing in this regulation, including permissible items of subsection (b), is designed to interfere with a hospital issuing and enforcing a more restrictive contraband list as appropriate to address the needs or safety of a patient population or the hospital.
(d) While items of subsection (a) shall not be in the personal possession of patients, hospitals have the discretion to permit items to be accessible to patients on a supervised basis only. This would include a check-out basis or a temporary basis for use in an observable common room, a computer lab, or group and/or individual therapy. In no case shall digital storage devices for patient access purposes contain a storage capability greater than eight gigabytes (8 GB).

(e) While this section is being enforced initially as an emergency regulation, patients who are currently in personal possession of, store, or otherwise have access to any of the contraband items set forth in subsection (a) may grant permission to the Department for the item to be reviewed for illegal material without file, folder, or document-type limitation, other than documents protected by attorney/client privilege. Such a search for illegal material must be granted to and conducted by the hospital. If consent is granted by the patient and there is no illegal material found on the contraband items set forth in subsection (a), the item shall be mailed to a location designated by the patient. If consent is not granted by the patient to search the contraband items set forth in subsection (a), the hospital shall destroy the contraband item.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4005.1, 4027 and 4101, Welfare and Institutions Code. Reference: Sections 4005.1, 4101, 4027, and 7295, Welfare and Institutions Code.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS EMERGENCY REGULATION TEXT January 9, 2018