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May 4, 2020

Margaret Egan, Esq.
Acting Executive Director
NYC Board of Correction
1 Centre Street, Room 2213
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Egan:

In accordance with the respective variance provisions in the NYC Board of Correction minimum standards cited below, the NYC Health+ Hospitals/Correctional Health Services (CHS) requests renewals, for a one-month period, of the following limited variances.

Mental Health Minimum Standards

Section 2-04(c)(3): The variance, first granted on April 14, 2020, allows Correctional Health Services to waive the requirement that an individualized written treatment plan based upon the evaluation of a treatment team be developed for each inmate placed in special housing for mental observation and for all inmates to whom medication for mental or emotional disorders is prescribed, and that a review of the plan be documented in the patient's chart every two weeks. Instead, Correctional Health Services may complete limited, initial treatment plans and have patient encounters for treatment plans documented in progress notes in the electronic health record.

Sections 2-05(b)(2)(i-ii): The variance, first granted on April 14, 2020, allows Correctional Health Services to see non-Seriously Mentally Ill adults in general population during a period of up to every eight weeks and to see patients in mental observation units within two weeks after medication change.

Reason for Continuing the Variances

Circumstances have not changed materially since the granting of these two limited variances. New York City is still in the midst of a public health crisis of unprecedented proportions. The continuation of these variance requests allows more flexibility for staff to focus on clinical acuity while also safely reducing the burden of less critical work such as documentation.

We are not aware that the granting of these variances has resulted in harm to our patients and respectfully respect that they be renewed.

May 1, 2020

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The consideration of the Board members and staff is greatly appreciated in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RM', is positioned above the printed name.

Ross MacDonald, MD

cc: Patricia Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President, CIIS