Nobles County Public Health Blood Pressure Screening Standard Operating Procedure

Summary:

Nobles County Public Health staff have been granted permission to conduct non-emergency blood pressure screening of the public. The non-emergency blood pressure screening is to help educate the individual client about the ill effects of high or low blood pressure and to identify what their pressures are at the time of the screening. The screening will only be conducted by qualified public health staff. The results of the screening and any recommendations will be recorded on a 3x5 card for the Client and on a log maintained by the unit. Recommendations of follow up actions may be made for abnormal screening results that may include “follow up with your doctor” or in life threatening cases “go to the hospital”. Normal and abnormal pressures will be determined utilizing the American Heart Association standards (listed below) for adults. Under No circumstances will a Nobles County Public Health staff member recommend a specific medical provider.

Authorization to deploy:

* The members of the Unit have been authorized to perform Non-emergency Blood Pressure Screening during approved public health events for the purposes of public education, approved by the Nobles County Medical Director and Public Health Administrator.

Supervision:

* All Nobles County Public Health staff are supervised by the Public Health Administrator.
* The screener is in charge of the screening operation and has the authority to stop the operation.

Definitions:

* Non-Emergency blood pressure screening is the actual measurement of the systolic and diastolic pressures in the vascular system utilizing a Stethoscope and sphygmomanometer for the purposes of public education not medical evaluation.
* A qualified screener is any Public Health staff who has completed the blood pressure screening competency checklist.
* Documentation is the recording of the clients information, the screener’s information and any recommendations made by the screener. The information will be logged by the screener and maintain by the Unit and a copy will be provided to the client.
* Client(s) is any member of the public 18 years old or older requesting to have their blood pressure screened.



Concept of Operations:

1. The screening will be conducted out of the direct view of others to enhance privacy and in a way as to reduce added stress.
2. The screener will record the client’s information on the unit log and a 3x5 card.
3. The screener will (if appropriate) conduct the screening and determine the clients pressures;
   1. Log the finding on the unit log the 3x5 card.
   2. Make any recommendations as necessary.
   3. Distribute any educational materials based on the findings.
   4. Issue the 3x5 card to the client for their records.

In the event of a High Blood Pressure Crisis:

In the event a client is found to have a high blood pressure crisis, the screener will offer to summon an ambulance for the transportation of the client to the nearest hospital.

Under No circumstances will a public health staff member recommend a specific medical provider.