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STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT Public Welfare

Office Memorandum

TO : All Medical Services Division Institutions
ATTENTION: Medical Director
ATTENTION: Administrator

DATE: May 17, 1971

FROM : David J. Vail, M.D., Director
Medical Services Division

SUBJECT: Policy on Prefrontal Lobotomy

June
Make copies for
M. S. Madors
W. S. Nelson
(612)

The Mental Health Medical Policy Committee (meetings of November 16, 1970, and February 24, 1971) has recommended the following policy on the performance of prefrontal lobotomy on patients/residents in Minnesota state hospitals.

1. The procedure is potentially useful in certain selected cases and despite obvious disadvantages and hazards it should remain a part of the therapeutic armamentarium.
2. The procedure would only be done at the Rochester State Hospital, among the Minnesota state hospitals.
3. Approval of the procedure should be obtained by the informed consent of the patient and his family pursuant to 253A.17, Subd. 8.
4. Approval of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Welfare must be obtained for the committed mentally retarded wards and all others committed for any purpose to his guardianship.
5. Approval of the procedure must next be obtained from the medical staff of the Rochester State Hospital.
6. Approval of the procedure must finally be obtained from an ad hoc committee of at least three medical specialists appointed by the Commissioner from outside the state hospital system, who are asked to submit their recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Welfare and the head of the Rochester State Hospital.

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The above can be regarded as official policy. The same general procedure would apply to other "psycho-surgery" subject further to specific Therapy Clearance through the Mental Health Medical Policy Committee for procedures that can be considered to be new for us or in an experimental phase of development.

DJV:mhv

CC: DPW Cabinet
Medical Services Division Staff
Mental Health Medical Policy Committee
Governor's Office