



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

AUSTIN 11, TEXAS

**WILL WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

June 17, 1959

Mr. William J. Burke
Executive Director
State Board of Control
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas

Opinion No. WW-647

Re: Validity of vouchers for
the purchase of medication
and drugs to be furnished
patients at a State hospi-
tal while on furlough.

Dear Mr. Burke:

You have requested our opinion concerning the validity of vouchers for the payment of drugs furnished patients at Terrell State Hospital while on furlough.

The facts surrounding these purchases, as revealed in the letter attached to your request from the Business Manager of the Terrell State Hospital, may be summarized as follows:

The drugs purchased are for the purpose of furnishing patients at the Terrell State Hospital who are on furlough, thereby enabling them to remain on furlough for longer periods of time. The patients reimburse the State for these drugs. The vouchers have been approved by the Business Manager of the Terrell State Hospital and the Board for Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools.

Article 3196a, Vernon's Civil Statutes, requires non-indigent patients to be maintained at the expense of the State in the first instance, "but in such cases the State shall have the right to be reimbursed for the support, maintenance and treatment of such patients." It is our opinion that the furnishing of the patient with the drugs constitutes a part of the treatment of the patient and is therefore the purchase of necessary supplies for the hospital.

You are therefore advised that the vouchers presented with your request should be processed for payment as the same constitute purchases of necessary supplies for the proper treatment of patients at the Terrell State Hospital.

In view of the foregoing it is unnecessary for us to answer your questions categorically.

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SUMMARY

Drugs furnished at a State hospital while patients are on furlough constitute a part of the treatment of patients at the hospital and may therefore be purchased by the State as necessary supplies.

Yours very truly,

WILL WILSON
Attorney General of Texas

By 
John Reeves
Assistant

JR:wb:mfh

APPROVED:

OPINION COMMITTEE
C. K. Richards, Chairman

J. Milton Richardson
Marvin Brown
Marvin R. Thomas, Jr.

REVIEWED FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
BY: W. V. Geppert