

# Center

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presence of clear-cut depressive symptoms and signs appeared to be ignored," according to the report.

In another case, Tetrabenzazine, an experimental drug not yet approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, was given to a patient without his signed consent, the inspectors said.

South Beach, in a written attachment to the report, flatly denied ever administering Tetrabenzazine.

Although South Beach is funded and equipped as a 400-bed institution, the inspectors found an inpatient census of 518 patients. The Brooklyn units account for 60 out of the 400-bed capacity.

To handle the "overcrowding," the report said, folding cots had been set up in the main facility on Staten Island. Some cots were observed wedged together in geometric formation, with three beds pushed together vertically and one positioned horizontally at their feet.

The survey found unsanitary conditions in the bathrooms of satellite wards located in Coney Island-Sheepshead Bay. It cited the absence of toilet paper and towels, "vomitus or discolored fluid" on the floor and black streaks of "fungus or soap residue" on the tile walls.

Saperstein, the Health and Human Services regional administrator, said he had dispatched the inspectors to South Beach after the families of patients complained to his office and the Washington office of Secretary Richard Schweiker.

"Since so much federal dollars go there, we felt it was appropriate to get a team together," he said.

Saperstein said he had sent the report to the Chicago-based Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals, a private organization whose license is required for state hospitals to operate. The commission is scheduled to inspect South Beach next November.

The Health and Human Services survey echoes past criticism of South Beach by the joint Commission and the state Commission on the Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled.

Two years ago, the Joint Commission, citing overcrowding, granted South Beach a one-year accreditation, rather than the customary two years.

The Commission on Quality of Care has issued two reports charging the hospital with "disregarding" state regulations governing the use of drugs and restraints during the treatment of two patients. The patients, a 24-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman, died at South Beach, officially of heart failure, in 1979 and 1980.

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