

	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CORRECTIONS ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES	EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/02/2003	POLICY NO.: COR.10.1A.01
		SUPERSEDES (Policy No. & Date): COR.10D.02 (12/30/98)	
	SUBJECT: ACCESS TO CARE		Page 1 of 3

No. 2003-772

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that patients have access to health care services to meet their serious medical, dental and mental health needs.

2.0 REFERENCES AND DEFINITIONS

.1 References

- a. Hawaii Revised Statutes; Section 26-14.6, Department of Public Safety; and Section 353C-2, Director of Public Safety, Powers and Duties.
- b. National Commission on Correctional Health Care, Standards for Health Services in Prisons and Jails, (2003).
- c. Department of Public Safety, Corrections Administration Policy and Procedures, COR.10E.07, Non-emergency Health Care Requests and Services; COR.10E.09, Segregated Inmates.
- e. American Correctional Association, Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, (1990), 3-4331.

.2 Definition

- a. Health Care Staff: Medical, nursing, dental, mental health, health information professionals and paraprofessionals employed or contracted by the State.
- b. Access: The liberty and ability for inmates to communicate with health care staff regarding serious medical, dental, mental health needs and their protected health information.
- c. Health Authority: The Clinical Section Administrator is the Health Authority.

3.0 POLICY

- .1 All inmates shall have unimpeded access to health care services on a daily basis to meet their serious medical, dental, and mental health needs.

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- .2 Other correctional employees shall not interfere with access to health services. There shall be no interference with the delivery of medication or health treatments by other correctional employees or correctional programs.
- .3 In the event of a facility emergency requiring a lockdown, health care staff shall prepare a list of inmates who must not miss any doses of a medication or other essential treatments or services. Arrangements shall be made for the listed inmates to receive their medications or other essential treatments or services in a timely fashion during the lockdown.
- .4 There shall be no unreasonable barriers to health care services such as punishing inmates for seeking care for their serious health needs, assessing excessive co-payments to deter inmates from seeking health services, deliberately scheduling sick call at unreasonable hours or establishing disincentives that deter inmates from seeking care.
- .5 In order to insure health services availability to inmates, health care staff shall have access to inmate housing units on a daily basis and to all areas of the facility during emergencies.

4.0 PROCEDURES

- .1 Health Care Sections (HCS) shall establish access for patients by allowing inmates to communicate with the HCS using an inmate medical request form or by conducting daily nursing rounds into each housing unit.
- .2 If using inmate medical request forms, the forms shall be retrieved daily by a nurse or para-professional designated by the facility health authority. The requests shall be triage by a nurse within twenty-four hours of receipt and the patient shall be scheduled for an appointment, if necessary, in a timely fashion.
- .3 If using nursing rounds, patient encounters requiring a nurse protocol shall be recorded in the medical record.
- .4 Health Care Sections may use a combination of both methods for daily access to care for serious medical, dental, and mental health needs.

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5.0 SCOPE

This policy and procedure applies to all correctional facilities and their assigned personnel.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED:

Kay A. Baumgardner MD, MPH 6/27/03
 Medical Director Date

[Signature] 6/30/02
 Correctional Health Care Administrator Date

[Signature] 7/1/03
 Deputy Director for Corrections Date

APPROVED:

James A. Spotnick
 Director
 7/2/03
 Date