


State of Alaska Department of Corrections Policies and Procedures		Index #: 807.10 Page 1 of 6
		Effective Date: 86-3-3 <i>WJ</i> 86-19
Approved by: Roger V. Endell	Related ACA Standards: 2-4303 through 2-4307	Distribution: A, B, C
Supersedes: N/A	Subject: SPECIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS	
Chapter: MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES		

I. AUTHORITY:

In accordance with AS 44.28.030, AS 33.30.021, and 22 AAC 05.155, the Department of Corrections shall develop and adopt policies and procedures that are consistent with laws for the guidance, government and administration of correctional facilities, programs and field services.

II. PURPOSE:

To establish procedures and guidelines for the application of special health care programs and activities.

III. APPLICATION:

To all employees.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

As used in this document, the following definitions shall apply:

Health Care:

All preventative and therapeutic action taken to provide for the physical well being of an individual; includes medical, dental, nursing services, personal hygiene, dietary services, and allied health services, categorized as follows:

1. Mandatory health care services are those rendered with or without the permission of the prisoner; the purpose of which is restricted to:
 - a. the protection of the public health;
 - b. the protection of the life of a comatose or otherwise compensated prisoner who will not or cannot give permission; or
 - c. the determination of the potential for infectiousness if any unlawful exchange of body fluids is known to have occurred such as biting, spitting, shared use of needles/drug injections, homosexual liaison, sexual intercourse, etc.; mandatory services may include
 - d. immunizations, treatment of meningitis, segregation for hepatitis, prevention of suicide, and similar medical actions;

2. Essential health care services are those required to prevent or alleviate pain and suffering which include dental services; services rendered only by consent of the prisoner; services second in the order of priority, after mandatory, which include those procedures deemed necessary to promote rehabilitation and to aid in increasing the level of functioning throughout the prisoner's sentence service, including prosthetic devices; and
3. Elective health care services include all other services not included under 1. and 2. above which are rendered with the prisoner's consent; services lowest in priority which include services contingent upon resources to improve cosmetic appearance or to permit functioning at levels not directly related to rehabilitation; services for conditions that were long standing prior to incarceration; includes extraordinary, experimental services such as liver or cardiac transplantation.

V. POLICY:

Special health care and allied programs will be made available to prisoners within the limits of state laws and available funds. A written treatment plan will be developed for prisoners with special health care needs.

VI. PROCEDURES:

A. General:

1. These procedures establish guidelines for the application and/or participation of the department and the medical staff in the indicated special health care and medically related activities;
2. A written treatment plan will be developed by the appropriate, physician, dentist or other qualified health care practitioner for each prisoner with a special health care need. The plan will include a statement of short term and long term goals, specific courses of therapy, and provisions for referral to supportive and/or rehabilitative services, when necessary; and
3. If transfer is a possibility, the recommendations for travel will be specifically written as part of the treatment plan.

B. Health Care Levels:

Special health care for prisoners will be provided on the same level and priority as normal health care as defined and applied in accordance with 807.02, Access to Health Care Services.

Subject: SPECIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

C. Special Programs:

1. Health Education:

Each institution health care unit will provide health education material to prisoners, upon request, of the same or similar variety as that provided to the general public through volunteers and governmental agencies at no cost or minimal charge. In addition, health care personnel may produce or use materials for specific health education purposes of the Department;

2. Food Service:

Health care personnel will conduct periodic inspection of the institution's food service area and operation in coordination with the food service supervisor in accordance with 805.05, Safety and Security for Food Service Area and Workers. The health care unit will provide the required physical examinations and health assessments for food service workers in accordance with 805.02, Physical Examinations for Food Service Workers. Medically prescribed therapeutic diets for prisoners, ordered by health care personnel, will be referred to the food service unit in accordance with 805.03, Special and/or Religious Diets.

3. Hearing Program:

A hearing preservation and restoration program may be provided needful prisoners as part of the health care program. Hearing aids and other hearing prosthesis may be provided in accordance with 807.15, Health Care Prosthetics.

4. Chronic and/or Convalescent Care:

Prisoners requiring chronic and/or convalescent health care will be accommodated at the mandatory or essential levels of health care. These special care services may be provided in-state by or through this Department, through out-of-state contract placement in accordance with 750.02, Out-of-State Transfers, via rehabilitation furlough for medical purposes in accordance with 818.02, Furlough, or through other classification and transfer action appropriate to the need.

5. Diagnostics:

Health care screening and diagnosis, including indicated tests, will be provided in accordance with 807.02, Access to Health Care Programs; 807.08, Informed Consent; 807.13, Mental Health Services; 807.14, Physical Examination; and, 807.16, Involuntary Administration of Medication; for prisoner special health care needs.

Subject: SPECIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

NOTE: Hunger strikes will be viewed as self-destructive behavior and as such fall within the definition of mandatory health care indicating medical service as required in accordance with 807.02, Access to Health Care Services, and 807.08, Informed Consent.

6. Maternal Care:

Pre-natal, natal and post-natal care will be provided for pregnant prisoners in accordance with 808.06, Requirements Relating to Female Prisoners. Health care personnel shall arrange for the childbirth to take place at a hospital which will normally be outside the institution. The Department will provide for the medical expenses of the child for only the first three days following birth.

7. Sterilization:

Medical procedures for the sterilization of a prisoner are not provided as elective health care. Contraceptive therapy may be prescribed by health care personnel on a case-by-case basis and as needed. Such therapy must be approved by the Superintendent and Department Medical Officer prior to inception.

8. Dialysis:

Renal dialysis services may be prescribed by a treating physician and accomplished outside the institution; or peritoneal dialysis may be performed within the institution, in certain instances. Dialysis health care services will be at the option of the prisoner at the essential level of health care. A renal transplant may be medically prescribed which is not an experimental procedure and contrary to 807.09, Medical Experimentation Prohibited.

9. Preventive Services:

Some blood or tissue screening health care procedures for communicable diseases may be prescribed as mandatory health care for such as Hepatitis-B, Syphilis, Tuberculosis, and other such contagions. Other screening procedures will be optional preventive services for prisoners and may include blood and intraocular pressure measurements, urine analysis, cervical smears, prostate digital examination, etc. The range of optional preventive screening procedures provided will be the same as those usually done in a family or general practitioner's medical practice. Tests performed will be appropriate for age, sex and general risk group, as customarily recommended by the Academy of Preventive Medicine.

Subject: SPECIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

10. Contagious Diseases:

- a. All contagious diseases will be reported immediately to the Department Medical Officer whenever and wherever diagnosed. The contagious and infected person(s) will be treated and controlled through appropriate programs in close working coordination with the local health authorities. The first priority for these diseases is to treat the host and prevent the transmission to other persons. Infected prisoners may be isolated and/or transferred, if necessary, to prevent transmission, in accordance with 804.01, Protective Custody and Administrative Segregation; 750.01, Administrative Transfers; and/or through classification action appropriate to the need;
- b. Guidelines for the institutional control of disease as published by the Centers for Disease Control of the U. S. Public Health Service will be followed unless to do so would compromise the security appropriate for the prisoner(s) affected; and
- c. Periodic tests, health screenings and physical examinations will be done as recommended by health care personnel until the condition is judged to be arrested, cured and/or non-communicable. Medical segregation may be called for until such time as the contagion is certified to be in control and the host prisoner is no longer contagious.

11. Detoxification:

- a. Detox and withdrawal programs will be under the guidance of qualified health care personnel within institutions. If qualified, experienced health care staff are not available, treatment outside the institution may be prescribed;
- b. Methadone will not be approved for treatment within the Department; and
- c. Each prisoner involved in a detoxification program will have a written health care plan outlining the health care regimen which will be subject to the periodic review of the appropriate health care specialists.

12. Prosthetics:

Prosthesis may be provided for prisoners in accordance with 807.15, Health Care Prosthetics, and 807.17, Dental Specialties.

Subject: SPECIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

13. Vision:

Vision preservation and correction may be provided to prisoners as routine health care in accordance with 807.02, Access to Health Care Services; and 807.15, Health Care Prosthetics. Acuity examinations are part of the routine physical examination provided in accordance with 807.14, Physical Examination. Vision preservation and correction health care will be provided at the level of essential health care and through the prescription of eye glasses to include safety glasses, where indicated, in accordance with 807.15, Health Care Prosthetics.

14. Organ Transplant:

- a. Organ transplants on behalf of prisoners may be provided in the course of health care, when and where medically indicated in accordance with 807.02, Access to Health Care Services, and related policies; and
- b. The following guidelines will apply to any medical treatment involving prisoner donated organs for transplant:
 - (1) Organ donations by prisoners are only permitted when the intended recipient is a member of the donor's immediate family;
 - (2) The costs of hospitalization and fees for medical and security services will not be the responsibility of the Department and must be borne by the prisoner or organ recipient; and
 - (3) Nothing in this policy precludes a prisoner's making an anatomical gift to take effect upon death.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION:

This policy and procedure is effective as of the date signed by the Commissioner. Each Manager shall incorporate the contents of this document into local policy and procedure within 14 days. All local policies and procedures must conform to the contents of this document and any deviation from the contents of this document must be approved in writing by the Commissioner or designee.

DATE

March 3, 1986

Roger V. Endell, Commissioner
Department of Corrections