
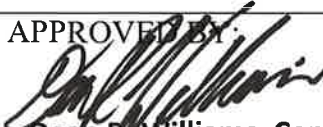


<p>STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p>  <p>POLICIES & PROCEDURES</p>	SECTION: Health And Rehabilitation Services		PAGE: Page 1 of 5
	CHAPTER: 807	NUMBER: 807.19	P&P TYPE: Public
	TITLE: Optometry Scope Of Services		
	APPROVED BY:  Dean R. Williams, Commissioner		DATE: 06/07/17
ATTACHMENTS / FORMS: (None.)		AUTHORITY / REFERENCES: 22 AAC 05.005 AS 33.30.011 22 AAC 05.120-121 AS 33.30.021 22 AAC 05.155 AS 33.30.028 AS 33.05.010 AS 44.28.030 AS 33.16.180 DOC P&P 807.07 2014 NCCHC Standards For Health Services In Prisons, [P-G-10]. 2014 NCCHC Standards For Health Services In Jails, [J-G-10].	

POLICY:

- I. It is the policy of the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide essential eye examinations, referrals and corrective eye glasses to prisoners.
- II. It is the policy of the Department that treatment for eye related diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts and macular degeneration shall first be approved by the Department's Medical Advisory Committee (MAC).
- III. It is the policy of the Department that prisoners shall be charged a co-pay for certain services consistent with DOC P&P 807.07, Prisoner Responsibility For Health Care.

APPLICATION:

This policy and procedure will apply to all Department employees and prisoners.

DEFINITIONS:

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

Essential Care:

Indispensable care to prevent the progression of disease or the deterioration of health. Services will be provided that meet the definition of essential services and / or meet the following requirements:

- Necessary for the health and safety of the incarcerated community for public health reasons; or
- Required by law, regulation or Department policy; and
- Ordered by a qualified health care practitioner; and
- Authorized according to Department policies and procedures; and

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- Delivered in the most cost effective manner and location consistent with safe, appropriate care;
- Is consistent with the standards of care of the Department;
- Not considered experimental or adequately supported by medical evidence to demonstrate efficacy;
- Not administered for the convenience of the prisoner or health care provider.

Eye Examination:

An eye examination is a series of tests performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist to assess vision and ability to focus on and discern objects as well as other tests and examination pertaining to the eye to detect eye disease.

Eyewear:

Eyeglasses or contact lenses that are necessary to improve vision

Health Care Staff:

Health care staff includes licensed physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, emergency medical technicians, physician assistants, registered or practical nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, optometrists, pharmacists, mental health clinicians, clinical social workers, psychological associates, dispensing opticians, physical therapists, and occupational therapists that provide preventive, curative, promotional or rehabilitative health care services.

Medical Advisory Committee (MAC):

A Health and Rehabilitation Services (HARS) Health Care Administrator appointed panel comprised of health care staff and selected collaborating and consulting physicians. The MAC shall:

- Make authorization decisions on all non-emergency hospitalizations and surgeries, some specialty referrals, complex cases, special studies or treatments;
- Respond to prisoner health care grievance appeals;
- Review health care policies and procedures;
- Review Departmental decisions that deny a prisoner treatment recommended by a consulting physician; and
- Respond to prisoner’s appeals to the use of involuntary medication.

Ophthalmologist:

A physician trained as an eye specialist and licensed by the State of Alaska.

Optometrist:

A doctor of optometry, licensed by the State of Alaska to practice optometry.

Visual Acuity:

The clarity of vision measured by the ability to discern letters or numbers at a given distance according to a fixed standard.

Visual Acuity Test:

A visual acuity test is used to determine the smallest letters a prisoner can read on a standardized chart or a chart or a card held 20 feet away.

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PROCEDURES:

I. Eye Screening / Exams:

- A. A visual acuity examination may be repeated every two (2) years to determine eligibility for corrective lenses.
- B. An eye health examination to screen for reversible diseases (i.e. glaucoma, macular degeneration, etc.) may be completed every 2 (2) years if requested by the prisoner. Eye health exams may be provided in less than 2 (2) years for prisoners with medical conditions that warrant more frequent exams.
- C. Examinations shall not be provided to prisoners within six (6) months or less of their release date unless ordered by a health care practitioner or as required as part of a release plan.

II. Criteria For DOC Issued Eyeglasses / Contact Lenses:

- A. Un-sentenced prisoners shall meet the following criteria before eye glasses shall be issued at the Department's expense:
 - 1. Be in custody for at least 30 days; and
 - 2. Have a visual acuity worse than 20/100 in both eyes (with corrective lenses if applicable) or a medical condition necessitating eyeglasses.
- B. Sentenced prisoners shall have a visual acuity worse than 20/40 in both eyes (with corrective lenses if applicable) or a medical condition necessitating eyeglasses before they shall be given eyeglasses at the Department's expense.
- C. Unless medical circumstances warrant or visual acuity changes, glasses shall not be provided sooner than every two (2) years.
- D. Contact lenses shall not be provided unless an ophthalmologist certifies a prisoner's vision is below the functional level and eyeglasses cannot correct the defect.
- E. Tinted glasses may be authorized only if approved by an ophthalmologist for specific eye disorders for which no alternate treatment is available.
- F. Glasses shall not be provided to a prisoner who has less than six (6) months to serve unless it is requested by the prisoner and is a documented requirement of a release plan

III. Personal Eyeglasses / Contact Lenses:

- A. Personal corrective eyeglasses shall be approved by security staff.

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- B. Prisoners who enter a DOC institution with personal corrective eyeglasses or contact lenses shall be allowed to keep one (1) pair if they are approved by security staff. Additional pairs of glasses may be approved if medically necessary.
- C. Maintenance supplies for contact lenses shall not be provided unless contact lenses are medically required.
- D. Families may provide corrective eyeglasses to prisoners and prisoners may purchase their own eyeglasses. Some types of eyeglasses shall not be allowed; this is determined by security staff.
- E. Tinted or sunglasses may be medically authorized only if approved by an ophthalmologist for specific eye disorders for which no alternate treatment is available.
- F. DOC is not responsible for damage, loss, repair, or replacement of a prisoner's personal eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- G. If personal eyeglasses are broken, lost or in need of replacement, the prisoner may request an eye exam.
- H. Upon approval, health care staff may provide the prisoner with a copy of the prisoner's prescription if the prisoner desires personalized frames or other modifications. The prisoner may send the approved prescription to an optician of the prisoner's choice and at the prisoner's expense. The Department shall disburse the prisoner's funds for such payment. There shall be no charge for providing a copy of the prescription.

IV. Types Of Eyeglasses Provided:

A. General Guidelines:

1. Glasses provided shall be provided in State issued frames.
2. Bifocal lenses shall only be provided to prisoners who meet visual acuity criteria and for whom two (2) of the following criteria are met:
 - a. Astigmatism;
 - b. Myopia;
 - c. Hyperopia; and
 - d. Presbyopia with a discrepancy between necessary right and left magnification.
3. Trifocal lenses shall not be authorized.

B. Reading Glasses:

1. Un-sentenced prisoners shall be provided reading glasses upon request at no charge. These shall be

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provided no more often than one (1) time per year.

2. Sentenced prisoners are required to purchase reading glasses on Commissary.

C. Safety Glasses:

1. Safety glasses shall be provided by work supervisors if deemed necessary based on the assigned job.

2. If provided to the prisoner by the work supervisor, the prisoner is required to wear the safety glasses.

3. Safety glasses shall be provided by operations staff, maintained in the work area and not considered personal property.

V. Replacement Of Eyewear:

A. If a prisoner's DOC provided eyeglasses are lost or damaged due to the prisoner's negligence, the prisoner shall be responsible for all repair or replacement costs unless he / she is indigent. If the prisoner is indigent, a debt shall be established.

B. If a prisoner's eyeglasses are broken due to a work-related accident, the glasses shall be replaced at no cost to the prisoner. Personally owned eyeglasses shall be replaced with State issued glasses.

VI. Cataract Surgery:

A. Cataracts shall be treated only for sentenced prisoners.

B. Cataracts shall be addressed one (1) eye at a time.

C. Cataract surgery shall not be used to treat a visual defect that is not due to cataracts except as in E below.

D. The best-corrected visual acuity in both eyes shall be worse than 20/40 with a current (less than six (6) months old) refraction.

E. Exceptions may be made for prisoners who work in programs where good stereoscopic vision is necessary for safety reasons or when a retinal specialist requests cataract surgery in a diabetic patient for retinal visualization (not for improvement of vision). Such exceptions shall be approved by the MAC.

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