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Kevin J. Gross, Chair Oklahoma Board of Corrections	Signature on File		

Offender Medical, Mental Health and Dental Care

I. Medical, Mental Health and Dental Care

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC) has established written standards for the delivery, maintenance, and improvement of medical, mental health, and dental care services for offenders. (2-CO-4E-01) The term “healthcare” encompasses all three disciplines for standards of healthcare services.

A. Purpose

The purposes of health standards are to:

1. Provide constitutionally required health care for offenders;
2. Coordinate and standardize health care delivery in each facility; and
3. Enable offenders to obtain specialized health care when constitutionally required.

B. Definition

Healthcare is defined as the summary of all action taken, that is preventative and therapeutic, to provide for the physical and mental well-being of the offender population. Such care includes medical, dental and mental health services, nursing, personal hygiene, dietary services and health education. (4-ACRS-4C-01M, 4-ACRS-4C-11, 4-ACRS-4C-15)

II. Compliance with Licensure Requirements

All clinical staff employed by the department for the purpose of providing offender health care services will be licensed, certified or registered as required by Oklahoma state licensing laws and regulations. (2-CO-4E-01, 4-4368M, 4-4382M, 4-ACRS-4C-18, 4-ACRS-7B-02M)

III. Standards for Provision of Health Services (2-CO-4E-01)

Appropriate healthcare will be provided as required by the United States and Oklahoma constitutions to all offenders in the custody of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections facilities. Services will be provided in an equitable manner. Qualified health care professionals will be available to serve offenders' needs and provide medical referrals as appropriate.

A. Chronic, Convalescent and Infirmary Care (4-4359M)

Chronic, convalescent and infirmary care will be provided at designated facilities.

1. Facility infirmaries will be operated 24 hours a day for the purpose of providing skilled nursing care, chronic and convalescent care and special housing of offenders who do not need hospitalization as designated by the medical authority .
2. Offenders that cannot be appropriately cared for within a DOC facility will be transferred to another appropriate medical facility equipped to provide the necessary service. (4-4348)

B. Routine Health Care (4-4346, 4-ACRS-4C-01)

1. Offenders can initiate requests for health services on a daily basis. Sick call requests will be triaged daily by qualified healthcare professionals and clinic appointments will be scheduled utilizing a priority system. Clinical services in a clinical setting are available to offenders at least five days a week and are performed by qualified healthcare professionals.
2. Community corrections centers will provide health care services on site or at a designated nearby DOC facility.

C. Emergency Care (4-4351M, 4-ACRS-4C-03M)

Emergency services will be available to all offenders 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

D. Pharmaceutical Services (4-4378M, 4-ACRS-4C-12)

Appropriate management of pharmaceutical services will be available to all offenders.

1. A formulary will be available and utilized for offender pharmaceuticals.
2. A formalized process will be established for obtaining non-formulary medications.
3. Facilities will provide secure storage and daily inventory of all controlled substances, syringes and needles.
4. The proper management of pharmaceuticals is administered in accordance with state and federal law.

IV. Cost of Health Care (4-4345)

The agency has established guidelines for offender health care co-payments. Upon their initial arrival, offenders are advised of the co-payment and are not refused health care because of their financial status.

V. Healthcare Records (2-CO-4E-01)

A. Health Assessments

A health assessment is completed on each offender upon reception into the system, periodically as required by the offender's health status and age and as appropriate upon transfer between facilities. (4-4365M, 4-4367, 4-ACRS-4C-04M)

B. Healthcare Records

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections will maintain comprehensive, confidential healthcare records regarding all health care services provided to offenders. (4-4396M, 4-ACRS-4C-22)

VI. References

57 O.S. § 504 (b) (1)

The 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution

Section 9 of Article 2 of the Oklahoma Constitution

VII. Action

The director is responsible for compliance with this policy.

The director is responsible for the annual review and revisions.

Any exceptions to this policy statement will require prior written approval of the Board of Corrections.

This policy is effective as indicated.

Replaced: Policy Statement No. P-140100 entitled "Offender Medical, Mental Health and Dental Care" dated January 14, 2014

Distribution: Policy and Operations Manual
Department Website