



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Policy and Procedure #4.307 Inmate Access to Health Care

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Authority: Wyoming Statute(s): 25-1-104; 25-1-105 ACA Standard(s): 4-4344; 4-4398; 4-4403; 4-4403-1 NCCHC Standard(s): P-A-01; P-E-01	Effective Date: July 29, 2016 Revision/Review History: 07/15/15 06/01/14 06/01/13 07/01/12 07/01/10 Summary of Revision/Review: Updates existing policy pursuant to annual review.
Cross Reference of Policy: PP #3.100, <i>Inmate Communication and Grievance Procedure</i>	Supersedes Existing Policy :
Approved: R.O. Lampert Robert O. Lampert, Director	7-25-16 Date

APPROVED FOR INMATE DISTRIBUTION

REFERENCE

1. ATTACHMENTS – None Noted
2. OTHER – None Noted



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I. PURPOSE

- A. **Access to Health Care.** The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish uniform guidelines by which inmates incarcerated in facilities supervised under the Wyoming Department of Corrections (WDOC) access health care services.

II. POLICY

- A. **General Policy.** It is the policy of the WDOC that all inmates are informed regarding the availability of and access to health care services and the grievance system upon arrival to WDOC facilities and that this information is communicated orally and in writing in a language that is easily understood by each inmate (ACA 4-4344; NCCHC P-A-01, P-E-01).

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Health Care Services:** Comprehensive medical, dental, vision, mental health and special services provided by a contract medical services provider.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. **Informing Inmates How to Access Health Care Services.** Each WDOC facility will provide inmates with information regarding access to health care services. This information shall include:
1. **Oral Communication to Inmate.** Upon arrival to a WDOC facility, inmates will be informed orally of the availability and access to emergency and routine health care services.
 - i. Non-English speaking inmates or inmates who are hearing impaired, should be provided assistance by an employee or a translator to ensure their understanding.
 2. **Written Communication to Inmate**
 - i. A sign detailing how to access health care services shall be posted in the intake area of each WDOC facility.
 - ii. Within twenty-four (24) hours of an inmate's arrival, inmates shall be given written information about:



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- a. How to access emergency and routine medical, dental, and mental health services.
 - b. The grievance process for health-related complaints.
 - iii. Non-English speaking inmates, inmates with a literacy problem, or inmates who are visually impaired, should be provided assistance by an employee or a translator to ensure their understanding.
- B. Inmate Access to Health Care Services.** Each WDOC facility will ensure that inmates have access to health care services. Facilities shall ensure that the following guidelines are met:
 1. Clinical judgments shall rest with a single, designated, licensed, responsible physician. No member of the correctional staff should approve or disapprove offenders' requests for health care services.
 2. Inmates can access health care services by utilizing the Sick Call Request form for medical, dental, vision or mental health needs.
 3. Inmates shall receive appropriate health care based on need and without regard to financial status.
 4. Inmates are entitled to submit communication forms and grievances to question or dispute their health care, pursuant to WDOC P&P #3.100, *Inmate Communication and Grievance Procedure*.
- C. Respect for Privacy.** Health care encounters including medical and mental health interviews, examinations, and procedures should be conducted in a setting that respects the offender's privacy. (ACA 4-4403)
- D. Telehealth.** If telehealth is used for patient encounters the plan includes policies for: (ACA 4-4403-1)
 1. Patient consent;
 2. Confidentiality/protected health information;
 3. Documentation; and
 4. Integration of the report of the consultation into the primary healthcare record.



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- E. Elective Procedures.** There are guidelines that govern elective procedures for surgery for offenders. (ACA 4-4398)
1. The contracted medical provider does not provide elective procedures.
 2. Only medically necessary surgeries/procedures are performed to correct substantial functional deficits or existing pathological processes that threaten the health of the inmate.
- F. Operational Procedures.** WDOC facilities may establish Operational Procedures to provide for the requirements of this policy and procedure.

V. TRAINING POINTS

- A.** What is the timeframe for informing an inmate of the availability and access to health care services?
- B.** TRUE OR FALSE: Non-English speaking inmates will be provided a translator to ensure they understand their access to health care services.
- C.** TRUE OR FALSE: Correctional Officers can approve or disapprove an offender's request for health care services.