WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Policy and Procedure #4.335

Inmate Participation in Healthcare Related Job Functions

Authority: Wyoming Statute(s): 25-1-104; 25-1-105 ACA Standard(s): 4-4393-R NCCHC Standard(s): P-C-06	**Effective Date:** July 29, 2016 **Revision/Review History:** 07/30/15, 07/01/14, 07/01/13, 07/25/12 **Summary of Revision/Review:** Updates existing policy pursuant to annual review.
Cross Reference of Policy:	**Supersedes Existing Policy :**
Approved: R.O. Lampert — 7-25-16 Robert O. Lampert, Director — Date	

APPROVED FOR INMATE DISTRIBUTION

REFERENCE

1. **ATTACHMENTS – None Noted**

2. **OTHER – None Noted**

I. PURPOSE

A. Inmate Participation in Healthcare Related Job Functions. The purpose of this Policy and Procedure is to provide direction to correctional facility staff regarding inmates participating in certain healthcare related job functions.

II. POLICY

A. General Policy. It is the policy of the Wyoming Department of Corrections (WDOC) to allow inmates to participate in certain healthcare related functions in facilities where such inmate job opportunities are available.

1. Inmates shall not be utilized as health care workers to perform healthcare services.

2. Assignment of inmates to perform such functions may only be made with consideration to correctional facility security, safety and good order.

B. No Control or Authority. It is the policy of WDOC that no inmate or group of inmates be given control or authority over other inmates in the health care area.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Activities of Daily Living: (*For this policy only.*) Generally refers to ambulation, bathing, dressing, feeding, and toileting.

B. Palliative Care: (*For this policy only.*) Support and comfort services provided to an inmate who is otherwise unable to perform activities of daily living.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Allowed Job Duties. Unless prohibited by state law, inmates (under staff supervision) may perform familial healthcare related duties commensurate with their level of training. (ACA 4-4393 Revised). These duties, performed under the supervision and control of security staff, may include:

1. Peer support and education;

2. Participating in palliative care and hospice programs and assisting with activities of daily living;

i. Participation requires specific direction and must be done through approved protocols.

3. Assisting impaired inmates on a one-on-one basis with activities of daily living;

4. Becoming a suicide companion or buddy;

i. Inmates must become qualified and trained through a formal program that is part of suicide prevention plan.

5. Becoming an end-of-life hospice companion or buddy;

i. Inmates must become qualified and trained through a formal program that is part of hospice care plan.

6. Cleaning of the health services unit as part of an inmate's work assignment.

i. Appropriate training is required.

ii. Documentation of such training is maintained at the facility.

iii. Inmates are supervised by WDOC personnel during cleaning duties.

B. **Prohibited Job Duties.** Inmates may not be used for the following healthcare related duties (ACA 4-4393 Revised):

1. Performing direct patient care services;

2. Scheduling healthcare appointments;

3. Determining access of other offenders to health care services;

4. Handling or having access to surgical or dental instruments, syringes, needles, medications, or health records;

5. Operating diagnostic or therapeutic equipment except under the direct supervision, by specially trained staff, in a vocational training program; or

6. Distributing or collecting sick-call slips, scheduling appointments, or handling medical records, medications, or surgical instruments and sharps.

V. TRAINING POINTS

A. What are the functions that inmates are allowed to do under this policy?

B. What are the functions that inmates are prohibited from doing under this policy?