
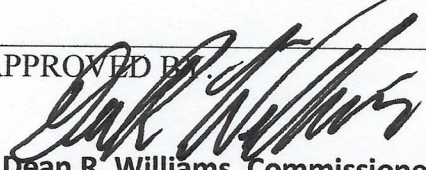


STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  POLICIES & PROCEDURES	SECTION: Health And Rehabilitation Services		PAGE: Page 1 of 5
	CHAPTER: 807	NUMBER: 807.12	P&P TYPE: Public
	TITLE: Dental Scope Of Services		
	APPROVED BY:  Dean R. Williams, Commissioner		DATE: 06/27/18
ATTACHMENTS / FORMS: (A.) Dental Care Record Form.		AUTHORITY / REFERENCES: 22 AAC 05.005 AS 33.30.028 22 AAC 05.120-121 AS 44.28.030 22 AAC 05.155 DOC P&P 807.02 AS 33.05.010 DOC P&P 807.06 AS 33.16.180 DOC P&P 807.07 AS 33.30.011 DOC P&P 808.03 AS 33.30.021 DOC P&P 808.11 2014 NCCHC Standards For Health Services In Prisons, [P-E-02, P-E-06]. 2014 NCCHC Standards For Health Services In Jails, [J-E-02, J-E-06].	

POLICY:

- I. It is the policy of the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide medically necessary dental care, including dental screenings and dental examinations. Prisoners may seek evaluation by a dental provider and shall receive services under the direction of a licensed dentist.
- II. It is the policy of the Department that services at institutions without a dental clinic shall be limited to dental emergencies only.
- III. It is the policy of the Department that to the degree that resources allow, care shall be timely and every effort shall be made to provide immediate services for emergent or painful conditions.
- IV. It is the policy of the Department that cosmetic and elective services shall not be provided.
- V. Consultation with a dental specialist in the community may be provided if the attending dentist determines a medical necessity for an outside evaluation and upon approval by the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC).
- VI. Treatment for dental problems that existed prior to the prisoner's incarceration must be considered in assessing and evaluating treatment options. The length of time remaining on the prisoner's sentence may also be considered. The attending dentist shall make a determination according to clinical judgment and dental classification.
- VII. The scheduling of prisoners for dental treatment shall be determined by the attending dentist in coordination with the institution's security staff. Prioritization of appointments shall be made by the attending dentist based on the Dental Classification System defined in Procedures section III below.

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APPLICATION:

This policy and procedure will apply to all Department employees, prisoners and offenders in Community Residential Centers (CRC).

DEFINITIONS:

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

Cosmetic Services:

Procedures, treatments or surgeries designed to improve or enhance a prisoner's appearance that are not reconstructive.

Dental Emergencies:

An urgent dental problem such as: oral-facial trauma; severe infection; swelling; and /or hemorrhaging.

Dental Examination:

This may include: the review of dental and medical histories; the charting of teeth; the examination of hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity; and, if indicated for diagnostic purposes, imaging.

Medical Advisory Committee (MAC):

- The MAC is comprised of health care personnel to include, at a minimum, the HCA, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Chief Mental Health Officer, Health Practitioner II(s), Medical Social Worker, and selected collaborating and consulting physicians.
- The MAC shall authorize all non-emergency hospitalizations and surgeries, specialty referrals, complex cases, special studies or treatments, and prisoner health care grievance appeals. (Per DOC P&P 808.03, Prisoner Grievances.)
- The MAC shall review Departmental decisions that deny a prisoner treatment recommended by a consulting physician. (Per DOC P&P 807.02, Access to Health Care Services.)
- The MAC shall review health care policies and procedures, clinical guidelines, medical operating procedures and protocols.

Medically Necessary Services:

Dental work required to provide for the maintenance of nutrition, treatment of a condition causing dental pain and / or the resolution of infection.

PROCEDURES:

I. Access To Care:

- A. Dental services shall be made available to prisoners in jails and prisons. Offenders in Community Residential Centers (CRC) shall only receive treatment for urgent or emergent dental needs.

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B. Prisoners may request dental care by completing a *Request For Interview Form* (808.11A) per DOC P&P 808.11, Communication Between Prisoners And Employees.

C. Prisoners on furlough status may purchase services provided at their own expense, per DOC P&P 807.02, Access To Health Care Services.

II. Screenings And Routine Exams:

A. As resources allow, an oral screening by the attending dentist or qualified health care professional shall be performed within 90 days of a prisoner's admission to a sentenced institution.

B. As resources allow, a dental examination shall be performed within 90 days of admission to a sentenced institution. Based on the examination, a treatment plan shall be established by a dentist. Results of the examination must be recorded on the *Dental Care Record Form* (Attachment A).

C. Dental examinations are not required on prisoners readmitted to a DOC institution within one (1) year of completion of a prior dental examination.

D. Instruction on oral hygiene and preventive oral education shall be provided at dental appointments.

E. Prisoners will be charged \$5 co-pay each for dental exams, dental treatment appointments and medications, per DOC P&P 807.07, Prisoner Responsibility For Health Care.

III. Dental Classification System For Prioritization Of Dental Services:

At the initial dental review, each prisoner shall be classified into one of three (3) treatment categories. Establishing priorities for dental care is not a replacement for professional dental judgment but is intended as a guide for providing dental care. The decision as to the category shall be made by the attending dentist and may be impacted by the length remaining on a prisoner's sentence.

A. Category One (1):

This category includes treatment that is emergent, requires immediate attention. This may include:

1. Acute infection;
2. Severe swelling due to dental disease;
3. Teeth obviously requiring extraction;
4. Suspected neoplasm;
5. Trauma;
6. Tooth mobility requiring extraction; and
7. Other severe dental conditions or complications from dental treatment.

B. Category Two (2):

This category includes treatment that is urgent, requires early treatment. This may include:

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1. Decay with extensive penetration into the dentin or near the pulp of a tooth;
2. Heavy calculus causing pathology;
3. Chronic infection; and
4. Palliative or root canal therapy.

C. Category Three (3):

This category includes treatment that is routine, treatment as available. This may include:

1. Incipient decay;
2. Third molar extractions secondary to chronic pain;
3. Oral prophylaxis and the prisoner is adherent to home care and oral-hygiene recommendations; and
4. Removable Appliances / Dentures.

IV. Removable Appliances / Dentures:

Full upper and / or lower dentures or partial dentures shall be provided if it is determined to be medically necessary and enough time remains on the prisoner's sentence to ensure fabrication and delivery of the appliance. Dentures are considered to be a Category Three (3) level of service.

- A. The attending dentist shall determine that dentures are necessary for the proper mastication of food, that chewing function can be improved and the alveolar bone is of sufficient quality and quantity to permit reasonable chance of success.
- B. The attending dentist shall consider the patient's overall health, weight change, body mass index, age and remaining dentition.
- C. Removable appliances (dentures) shall not be provided to prisoners without the approval of the MAC.
- D. Removable appliances (dentures) are subject to a co-pay of \$25 for each appliance. A full set of dentures is considered to be two (2) appliances.

V. Appliance Repair / Replacement:

Dentures shall be replaced no more than once every five (5) years. They shall only be remade if the attending dentist determines the existing appliance is unserviceable or non-repairable.

VI. Specialty Dental Consultation:

Specialty dental consultation, examination and / or treatment shall be provided, within the limitations of necessary dental services and available resources. Such consultation or treatment may be provided upon the recommendation of the attending dentist, when authorized by the MAC.

VII. Elective Dentistry:

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Cosmetic and elective dental work shall not be provided.

VIII. Records And Forms:

- A. The results of dental examinations and screenings shall be recorded on the *Dental Care Record Form* (Attachment A) and on the *Health Care Progress Notes* (807.06A) of DOC P&P 807.06, Health Care Record.
- B. Referral orders for specialty care shall be made using the *Prisoner Health Care Request* (807.02B) of DOC P&P 807.02, Access To Health Care Services.
- C. Dental forms and associated imaging, etc., shall be filed in the health care record in the order established by DOC P&P 807.06, Health Care Record.

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