


State of Alaska Department of Corrections Policies and Procedures		Index #: 202.05 Page 1 of 3
		Effective Date: 84-12-20 86-19
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Approved by: Roger V. Endell	Related ACA Standards: 2-4271, 2-4280, and 4281	
Supersedes: N/A	Subject: MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL	
Chapter: PERSONNEL		

I. AUTHORITY:

In accordance with AS 44.28.030, AS 33.30.021, and 22 AAC 05.155, the Department of Corrections shall develop and adopt policies and procedures that are consistent with laws for the guidance, government and administration of correctional facilities, programs and field services.

II. PURPOSE:

To specify qualifications for institutional medical services personnel; and to ensure compliance with laws governing the practices of medical services personnel.

III. APPLICATION:

To all; Superintendents, Health Care Administrators, and employees.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

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

A. Health Care:

All preventative and therapeutic action taken to provide for the physical well being of an individual or population. Health care includes medical and dental services, nursing services, personal hygiene, dietary services and allied health services.

B. Health Care Administrator:

Department Medical Officer or individual responsible for the provision of medical services at an institution or system of institutions.

C. Medically Trained Personnel:

Personnel who meet training standards as approved by the Health Care Administrator and are familiar with institutional procedures.

D. Qualified Medical Services Personnel:

Personnel who are lawfully authorized (by licensure, registration or certification) to perform, direct or support medical services.

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E. Responsible Physician:

A physician employed by, or under contract with, the state, who is responsible for all matters of medical judgement relating to prisoner medical care in the institution. The responsible physician shall be fully licensed and authorized to practice medicine in the State of Alaska.

V. POLICY:

All medical services personnel, employed by the Department of Corrections, shall meet licensure, certification, registration or training requirements, as required by law.

VI. PROCEDURE:

All medical services employees shall be governed in conformance with the following:

A. Professional Credentials:

Qualified medical personnel (physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, laboratory technician, etc.) shall be licensed, registered or certified in their respective disciplines. This licensure or certification status shall be verified by the Health Care Administrator prior to employment. Copies of the appropriate credentials shall be maintained by the Health Care Administrator at the central office who shall verify the status of the licensure each January to ensure compliance with periodic license renewal.

B. Medically Trained Personnel:

Medically trained personnel, (medical technicians, nursing assistants, emergency medical technicians, etc.) may provide medical services if they have received training appropriate to the medical tasks delegated. The Health Care Administrator shall document medical training in the personnel record and shall provide a written job description limiting services provided by medically trained personnel to a level commensurate with training.

C. Scope of Practice:

All medical services personnel shall comply with written job descriptions on file at the institution, as approved by the Health Care Administrator. The scope of practice shall be defined by applicable laws governing the practice of medical professionals.

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D. Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner:

Physician assistants and nurse practitioners shall work under the limits of their collaborative relationship with the institutional health care physician and shall practice within the limits of applicable state laws and regulations.

E. Students and Interns:

When students and/or interns are utilized in the delivery of medical services to prisoners, their services shall be supervised by a fully qualified professional.

F. Standing or Direct Medical Service Orders:

All medical services shall be performed as ordered by those personnel lawfully authorized to issue such orders. Medical services provided by a medical staff member other than a physician, dentist or other professional independently authorized to provide treatment, shall be in compliance with written orders or protocols issued and signed by the responsible physician.

- G. The Health Care Administrator shall verify the credentials and status of licensure for all contract medical services personnel providing services within the institution. Copies of the appropriate credentials shall be retained by the Health Care Administrator and maintained for periodic examination.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION:

This policy and procedure is effective as of the date signed by the Commissioner. Each Manager shall incorporate the contents of this document into local policy and procedure within 14 days. All local policies and procedures must conform to the contents of this document and any deviation from the contents of this document must be approved in writing by the Commissioner or designee.

DATE

12/20/84



Roger V. Endell, Commissioner
Department of Corrections