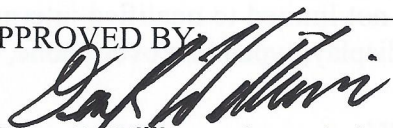


**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**



**POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

SECTION: <b>Health And Rehabilitation Services</b>		PAGE: Page 1 of 4
CHAPTER: <b>807</b>	NUMBER: <b>807.21</b>	P&P TYPE: <b>Public</b>
TITLE: <b>Auditory Scope Of Services</b>		
APPROVED BY:  <b>Dean R. Williams, Commissioner</b>		DATE: <b>04/14/17</b>

ATTACHMENTS / FORMS:  
**(None.)**

AUTHORITY / REFERENCES:  
**22 AAC 05.005 AS 33.30.021**  
**22 AAC 05.120-121 AS 33.30.028**  
**22 AAC 05.155 AS 44.28.030**  
**AS 33.05.010 DOC P&P 807.02**  
**AS 33.16.180 DOC P&P 807.07**  
**AS 33.30.011 DOC P&P 808.03**  
**2014 NCCHC Standards For Health Services In Prisons, [P-G-10].**  
**2014 NCCHC Standards For Health Services In Jails, [J-G-10].**

**POLICY:**

- I. It is the policy of the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide hearing examinations, referrals, hearing aids and batteries to prisoners if necessary for safe completion of their Activities of Daily Living (ADL) or to actively participate in Department treatment and programming.
- II. It is the policy of the Department that, where applicable, prisoners shall be charged a co-pay consistent with DOC P&P 807.07, Prisoner Responsibility For Health Care.

**APPLICATION:**

This policy and procedure will apply to all Department employees and prisoners.

**DEFINITIONS:**

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

**Activities of Daily Living (ADL):**

Generally refers to ambulation, bathing, dressing, feeding, and toileting. In mental health field, guidance in accomplishing these tasks, rather than direct assistance, is sometimes required. Decision making, keeping appointments, social interactions are common issues encompassed in this term when working with the seriously and persistently mentally ill.

**Audiometer:**

A testing devise used to determine a prisoner's hearing sensitivity at different frequencies.

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**Auxiliary Aids and Services:**

May include, but are not limited to qualified interpreters, computer-aided transcription services, closed caption decoders, video text display, typed text over phone, written materials, visual alert or alarm systems.

**Community Provider:**

A licensed health care professional practicing in the community who provides services to prisoners either on-site or off-site in a hospital or clinic.

**Health Care Staff:**

Health care staff includes: licensed physicians; psychiatrists; psychologists; emergency medical technicians; physician assistants; registered or practical nurses; advanced practice registered nurses; dentists; dental assistants; dental hygienists; optometrists; pharmacists; mental health clinicians; clinical social workers; psychological associates; dispensing opticians; physical therapists; and occupational therapists that provide preventive, curative, promotional or rehabilitative health care services

**Hearing Test:**

An evaluation of a prisoner's hearing ability.

**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.

**PROCEDURES:**

I. Hearing Exams:

- A. Health care staff shall assess a prisoner's hearing ability during the prisoner's remand health screening.
- B. A prisoner shall be referred to an audiologist if the prisoner appears to have a severe or sudden hearing loss that impairs the prisoner's functioning in a daily living or rehabilitative program.
- C. Before a referral to a community provider is made, a health care practitioner shall assess the prisoner's hearing ability.

II. Personally Owned Hearing Aids:

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Prisoners who enter a DOC institution with hearing aids shall be allowed to keep them.

### III. Approval For Hearing Aids:

The Regional Physician may approve hearing aids for a prisoner if the criteria in Procedures section IV, below are otherwise met.

### IV. Criteria for a Hearing Aid:

- A. The prisoner must have bilateral hearing loss that persists after treatment for reversible conditions.
- B. One hearing aid shall be provided if hearing in both ears is inadequate for safe participation in activities of daily living or Department programming.
  - 1. An audiology evaluation performed according to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards must demonstrate at least an average of 40dB loss for 500, 1,000, and 2,000 Hz by pure tone conduction in each ear; OR
  - 2. A difference between the level of 1,000 Hz and 2,000 Hz of 20 dB or more while the average loss of the air conduction level at 500 Hz and 1,000 Hz is 30 dB or greater.
- C. Bilateral (two) hearing aids shall not be provided unless it is determined by the MAC that it is essential for safety and / or the completion of Department programming.
- D. A hearing aid(s) shall not be provided to a prisoner who has less than six (6) months to serve unless it is requested by the prisoner and is a documented requirement of a release plan; OR the loss of hearing is so profound so as to pose a safety risk to the prisoner.
- E. A hearing aid(s) shall be provided no more often than once every three (3) years and only when there is an essential need that warrants replacement.

### V. Hearing Aid Batteries And Repairs:

- A. Hearing aid batteries shall be provided by the medical department for personally owned or State issued hearing aids without a co-payment charge.
- B. If a prisoner's DOC provided hearing aid(s) are lost or damaged due to the prisoner's negligence, the prisoner shall be responsible for all repair or replacement costs unless he / she is indigent. If the prisoner is indigent, the Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing a debt for repayment of the cost of the replacement or repairs.

### VI. Auxiliary Aids And Services:

- A. Deaf and hearing-impaired prisoners whose hearing is not or cannot be corrected by hearing aids so that

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they can understand speech and communicate orally shall be provided auxiliary aids and services.

- B. If a deaf or hearing-impaired prisoner declines recommended hearing aid or auxiliary aid or service, a signed *Waiver Of Medical Treatment Form* (807.08 B) shall be placed in the prisoner's medical chart per DOC P&P 807.08, Informed Consent And Refusal Of Treatment.

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