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<b>HEALTH CARE SERVICES          DIRECTIVE-ADULT          Manual of Policies and Procedures</b>				

Title <b>DENTAL SERVICES</b>
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Legal References (includes but is not limited to)  IC 11-8-2-5 IC 34-4-12.6	Related Policies/Procedures (includes but is not limited to)  01-02-101	Other References (includes but is not limited to)  National Correctional Healthcare Standards
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I. PURPOSE:

This Health Care Services Directive (HCSD) describes the delivery of Dental Services in Department facilities.

II. DEFINITIONS:

- A. ORAL CARE: Oral care includes instruction in oral hygiene, examination, and treatment of dental problems. Instruction in oral hygiene minimally includes information on plaque control and the proper brushing of teeth.
- B. ORAL SCREENING: Oral screening includes visual observation of the teeth and gums, and notation of any obvious or gross abnormalities requiring immediate referral to a dentist.
- C. ORAL EXAMINATION: Oral examination by a dentist includes taking or reviewing the patient's oral history, an extraoral head and neck examination, charting of teeth, and examination of the hard and soft tissue of the oral cavity with a mouth mirror, explorer, and adequate illumination.
- D. ORAL TREATMENT: Oral treatment includes the full range of service that in the supervising dentist's judgment are necessary for maintaining the patient's health.

III. GUIDELINES:

- A. Dental service provision begins during the Intake process. The Point of Entry, Arrival Screening, and Intake Health Appraisal interventions may identify the presence of serious dental needs. In addition to the dental screening carried out by the trained nursing and practitioner staff within seven (7) days of admission, Dental Services must provide screening and

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assessment by a dentist within seven (7) days of admission. Instruction regarding oral hygiene, preventative self-care, and oral disease education, shall be provided during the reception process.

Along with documentation of dental status, the Intake Dental Services personnel shall provide an initial treatment plan that will guide the provision of services after transfer from the Intake unit. (Dental Services personnel may provide services prior to a patient's departure from an Intake unit, but most services will be provided after transfer to another facility.)

- B. In brief, Dental Services include instruction and assistance in oral hygiene, treatment of dental emergencies, routine restoration services, extraction and other surgical services, and provision of prosthetics. When the primary purpose for a dental intervention is cosmetic, it is not provided.

Dental services are provided in the context of personal responsibility for oral hygiene. Restoration will not save teeth if patient does not support dental health with proper oral hygiene practices.

- C. Oral hygiene supplies must be available (either through free distribution or commissary sources) in all Department facilities.
- D. Consultation and referral to dental specialists, including oral surgery, shall be provided when necessary.

#### IV. EXPECTED PRACTICES AND STANDARDS:

- A. Oral care for each patient is conducted under the direction and supervision of a licensed dentist.
- B. Care is timely and includes immediate access for urgent conditions.
- C. Oral screening is performed as soon as possible, but no later than 7 calendar days from admission.
- D. Oral screening may be conducted by the dentist or qualified health care professional who has received documented training approved or provided by the dentist.
- E. Instruction in oral hygiene and preventive oral education are given within 30 days of admission.
- F. An oral examination is performed by a dentist within 30 days of admission.

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- G. Oral treatment, not limited to extractions, is provided according to a treatment plan based on a system of established priorities for care when, in the dentist's judgment, the patient's health would otherwise be adversely affected. The Health Services vendor shall develop dental practice standards and procedures in accordance with applicable policies and guidelines and meet community standards.
- H. Radiographs are used in the development of the treatment plan.
- I. Consultation through referral to oral health care specialists is available as needed.
- J. Each patient has access to the preventive benefits of fluorides in a form determined by the dentist to be appropriate for the patient's needs.
- K. Each patient is offered and provided with a written treatment plan, written orders and plans are carried out by qualified health care professionals, and care is provided without barriers to access.
- L. Extractions are performed in a manner consistent with community standards of care.

All aspects of these standards are addressed by defined procedures.

V. APPLICABILITY:

This HCSD is applicable to all facilities providing Health Services to incarcerated adults.

signature on file

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Kristen Dauss, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

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Date