



**STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy No. DOC 4.5.44	Subject: <b>COMMUNICATION ON OFFENDER HEALTH NEEDS</b>	
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES		Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Clinical Services		Effective Date: January 4, 2021
Department Director Signature: /s/ Cynthia Wolken		Revised:
Medical Director Signature: /s/ Dr. Paul Rees		
Clinical Services Division Administrator Signature: /s/ Connie Winner		

**I. POLICY**

The Department of Corrections will ensure communication occurs between facility administration and treating health staff regarding offender’s significant health needs that must be considered in classification decisions in order to preserve the health and safety of that offender, other offenders, or staff.

**II. APPLICABILITY**

All secure care facilities Department-owned and contracted.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

**Health Care Staff** – Includes qualified health care professionals and non-licensed health care staff (e.g., medical records staff, health care aides) responsible for offender health care administration and treatment.

**Mental Health Staff** – Qualified Mental Health Professionals and Qualified Health Care Professionals who have received instruction and supervision in identifying and interacting with individuals in need of mental health services.

**IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES**

**A. General Requirements**

1. Custody staff are advised of an offender’s special health needs that may affect the following:
  - a. housing;
  - b. work assignments;
  - c. program assignments;
  - d. disciplinary measures;
  - e. transport to and from outside appointments;
  - f. admissions to and transfers from facilities;
  - g. clothing or appearance; and
  - h. activities of daily living.

**B. Juvenile Offender Special Needs Conditions**

**Subject: COMMUNICATION ON OFFENDER HEALTH NEEDS**

1. Health care staff and custody staff communicate about juvenile offenders with special needs conditions that may include, but not limited to the following:
  - a. chronically ill (e.g., diabetes);
  - b. on dialysis;
  - c. communicable diseases that require special housing or isolation;
  - d. physically disabled;
  - e. pregnant;
  - f. frail;
  - g. terminally ill;
  - h. mentally ill or suicidal;
  - i. developmentally disabled;
  - j. vulnerable to manipulation;
  - k. require protection from physical or sexual abuse;
  - l. hearing or vision impaired;
  - m. require limb prosthetics; and
  - n. require medical supplies.

**C. Mental Health Special Needs**

1. Mental health staff and custody staff communicate about offenders with special mental health needs that may include, but not limited to the following:
  - a. chronic mental illness;
  - b. suicidal ideation or behavior;
  - c. intellectual and developmental disability;
  - d. significant substance use histories;
  - e. suspected or founded victims of physical or sexual abuse; and
  - f. other serious mental health problems.

**V. CLOSING**

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Clinical Services Division Administrator.

**VI. REFERENCES**

*A. P-B-07; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Prisons, 2018*

*B. MH-A-08; National Commission on Correctional Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities, 2015*

*C. Y-A-08; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities, 2015*

**VII. ATTACHMENTS**

None