



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

Policy No. DOC 4.5.4	Subject: HEALTH CARE CREDENTIALING
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES	Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Clinical Services	Effective Date: Aug. 1, 1997
Department Director Signature: /s/ Brian Gootkin	Revised: 4/19/2021
Medical Director Signature: /s/ Dr. Paul Rees	
Clinical Services Division Administrator Signature: /s/ Connie Winner	

I. POLICY

The Department of Corrections will ensure that all qualified health care professionals are legally eligible to perform their clinical duties. All Department and contracted facility offender health care services are provided by licensed and credentialed health care providers.

II. APPLICABILITY

All secure facilities Department of Corrections owned and contracted, as specified in the contract.

III. DEFINITIONS

Designated Health Authority – Regardless of local title, the individual at the facility or program level who is responsible for health services, as designated by the Responsible Health Authority.

Designated Mental Health Authority – Regardless of local title, the individual at the facility or program level who is responsible for mental health services, as designated by the Responsible Mental Health Authority.

Restricted License – A license that limits practice to correctional institutions.

IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

A. Requirements

1. Each Department and contracted qualified health care professional and qualified mental health professional providing onsite or telehealth services will:
 - a. submit a copy of current license or appropriate credentials to the facility administrator and designated health and mental health authorities upon hire;
 - b. maintain current license or credentials and provide verification of renewal to the facility administrator and designated health and mental health authorities; and
 - c. immediately report any changes to their credentials to the designated mental health authority.

2. The designated health and mental health authorities will:
 - a. provide verification of current licenses and credentials through the appropriate licensing board, including sanctions or disciplinary actions;
 - b. provide verification for prescribers through the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB);

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- c. ensure qualified health and mental health professionals do not perform tasks beyond the scope of their credentials;
- d. ensure licenses limiting practice to correctional health care only will not be permitted;
- e. maintain verifications in individual personnel files; and
- f. provide copies of verifications to the Department's contract monitor in contracted facilities.

V. CLOSING

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

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *P-C-01; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2018*
- B. *MH-C-01; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities, 2015*
- C. *Y-C-01; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities, 2015*
- D. *Montana Department of Labor & Industry Business Standards Division*
- E. *Montana Nurse Practice Act*
- F. *American Medical Association of Montana*
- G. *Board of Medical Examiners*

VII. ATTACHMENTS

None