



**MONTANA STATE PRISON  
HEALTH SERVICES OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE**

Procedure No.: MSP HS E-06.2	Subject: <b>Emergency Dental Evaluation</b>
Reference: NCCHC Standard P-E-06, 2008; NCCHC Standards Appendix G; DOC 4.5.26; MSP Nursing Dental protocols	Page 1 of 2 and no Attachments
Effective Date: November 1, 2010	Revised: August 10, 2020
Signature / Title: /s/ Daniel W Hash / Director, Dental Services	
Signature / Title: /s/ Cindy McGillis-Hiner / Medical Bureau Chief	

**I. Purpose:**

To provide emergency dental treatment for all inmates with severe dental related pain, acute dental infection and oral-facial trauma.

**II. Definitions:**

Emergency dental care – dental care for severe dental related pain, acute dental infection and oral-facial trauma requiring immediate or prioritized dental evaluation and treatment.

**III. Procedures:**

A. Access

Inmates may access emergency dental treatment through:

1. Medical Sick Call. The inmate can request emergency dental treatment through the Medical Sick Call system or medical staff visits.
2. Request for Medical Services – Dental (kite). The inmate can request dental treatment for severe pain, acute infection, or oral-facial trauma by utilizing the Request for Medical Services – Dental form available in all inmate housing units.
3. Intake Dental Screening appointment. These appointments are designed to ensure any dental conditions requiring emergent dental care are determined.
4. Oral Examination appointments. Emergent dental care may be provided at this appointment.
5. Referral from MSP medical staff members. Inmates can request emergency dental evaluation and treatment through any MSP medical staff member.
6. Referral from non-health care staff. Inmates can request emergency dental evaluation and treatment through any MSP staff member. In addition, any MSP staff member can request emergency dental evaluation and treatment on behalf of an inmate.

B. Treatment

1. Dental emergency evaluation and treatment shall be determined and prioritized through the nursing dental protocols and/or emergency dental protocols during regular clinic hours.
2. Nursing dental protocols (after hours).
  - a. Primary focus of treatment is alleviation of pain, control of acute infection and oral-facial trauma.
  - b. MSP Nursing Dental protocols are to be utilized by MSP medical staff after regular dental clinic hours.
  - c. Documentation of any treatment provided, concerning the dental emergency should be forwarded to the dental department in a timely manner.

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- d. Depending on the severity of the condition, the request for emergency dental treatment can be forwarded immediately to the dental department, or when after the normal dental clinic hours, to the on-call dentist.
- e. Inmates with life threatening dental emergencies or combination of medical and dental issues may be directed to the medical department.

C. Special Consideration Offenders.

1. Stash Inmates

Only Urgent / Emergent dental care is provided for these Offenders, as they are only at MDIU for a short time and require complete separation from all other Inmates. Coordination is required with the MDIU Unit Administrator and the MDIU Medical Staff.

D. Urgent / Emergent Dental Protocols

- 1. The request, once received by the dental department will be expedited and the inmate should be scheduled for evaluation and treatment at the earliest available clinic appointment time.
- 2. Treatment may include, but not be limited to:
  - a. No treatment, if not deemed appropriate.
  - b. Medications for relief of pain or acute infection.
  - c. Sedative or permanent restoration.
  - d. Extractions or other oral surgical treatment.
  - e. Adjustment of tooth structure, restorations or prosthetic appliances.
  - f. Treatment for acute periodontal conditions.
  - g. Pulpotomy or pulpectomy (first step endodontic treatment).
  - h. Referral to outside practitioners, the MSP Infirmary or the hospital emergency center.

E. Treatment Follow-up

- 1. When appropriate, the inmate should receive an appointment for follow-up dental treatment or post-op evaluation.
- 2. Inmates referred to the MSP Infirmary shall be monitored by the MSP Dental Department staff. Documentation, including appropriate admission and release documentation, should be made in both the inmate's medical and dental charts. See the Infirmary Admittances and Maxillofacial Trauma Care document for further guidance. Follow-up care should be coordinated through the MSP Dental Clinic Manager.
- 3. All inmates referred to outside practitioners or hospital emergency centers, for emergency treatment, should be set up for a post-op evaluation appointment.

**IV. Closing**

Questions concerning this operational procedure will be directed to the Health Services Manager.

**V. Attachments**

Infirmary Admittances and Maxilla-facial Trauma Care