



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

Policy No. DOC 4.5.26	Subject: OFFENDER DENTAL SERVICES
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES	Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Health Care	Effective Date: July 1, 1998
Signature: /s/ Mike Ferriter, Director	Revised: 08/08/07; 10/27/09

I. POLICY

The Department of Corrections facilities will provide offender dental services including dental screenings upon admission and clinically indicated services during incarceration.

II. APPLICABILITY

The secure care facilities that include Riverside and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facilities, Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, and the private and regional facilities contracted to the Department of Corrections.

III. DEFINITIONS

Dental Services – Routine and emergency dental care provided to offenders under the direction and supervision of licensed dental providers.

Facility – Refers to any prison or secure care correctional facility under Department jurisdiction or contract.

IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

A. General Requirements

1. Each facility will establish offender dental service procedures to include the following:
 - a. dental screenings conducted as part of the intake process;
 - b. a timely comprehensive dental examination provided by a dentist to determine needed follow-up dental care;
 - c. instructions on oral hygiene provided by qualified health care personnel;
 - d. diagnostic radiographs taken as needed to support the comprehensive examination and treatment plan;
 - e. treatment plans that identify existing dental needs and proposed dental treatment;
 - f. procedures for prioritizing clinically-indicated treatment, including emergent, urgent, and routine dental health care needs;
 - g. dental treatment that may include routine restorative treatment, extractions and other oral surgery, endodontic treatment, dental cleanings and periodontal care, partial and complete dentures. The triaged dental treatment provided will be subject to the amount of time the offender is under Department care;
 - h. preventive fluoride treatment available in a form approved by the Department;
 - i. offender dental care as part of a continuum of care unaffected by offender transfer from one facility to another;

Subject: **OFFENDER DENTAL SERVICES**

- j. a formal communication process by which offenders may access care; and
- k. consultation and referral to dental specialists, including oral surgeons, when necessary.

B. Standards of Practice

1. Dental care providers will:
 - a. comply with American Dental Association (ADA) clinical standards of care;
 - b. account for all sharps and instruments; and
 - c. follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ADA recommended infection control practices including instrument sterilization, equipment and surface disinfection, and hazardous waste disposal.
2. Facility health care administrators will ensure continuous quality improvement as requested by the health services bureau chief by analyzing the timeliness and appropriateness of offender dental care, and report such analysis to the facility administrator and health services bureau chief on a regular basis.
3. All facilities will follow Department dental health care and security policies and cooperate with the Department concerning offender dental health care.
4. Patient noncompliance with good oral hygiene practices, i.e., plaque control, may not be used as a basis to deny needed dental care.

V. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to Department's health services bureau chief.

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards, 2008*
- B. *3-JTS-4C-26; ACA Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2003*

VII. ATTACHMENTS

None.