



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

Policy No. DOC 4.5.7	Subject: OFFENDER WORKERS IN HEALTH CARE UNITS
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES	Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Health Care	Effective Date: Aug. 1, 1997
Signature: /s/ Mike Ferriter, Director	Revised: 06/21/11

I. POLICY

The Department of Corrections limits the use of offenders as health care workers in Department and contracted facility health care units to assignments for which they are appropriately trained and supervised.

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 as specified in contract.

III. DEFINITIONS

Chief Facility Health Officer – The health authority or nursing supervisor responsible for the facility health care services.

Chief of Security – The staff person, regardless of local title (security major, director of operations), designated by the facility administrator to manage the facility security program.

IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

A. Offender Assignments

1. Adult offenders, if appropriately trained and supervised, may be permitted to:
 - a. provide maintenance duties in the facility health care unit;
 - b. assemble blank health care record folders;
 - c. handle biohazardous wastes (e.g., dirty linens or utensils);
 - d. participate in peer health-related programs; and
 - e. participate in hospice programs.
2. Adult offenders may not be permitted to:
 - a. make treatment decisions or provide patient care;
 - b. distribute or collect sick call slips;
 - c. schedule appointments; or
 - d. substitute for health care staff.
3. The chief facility health officer, classification staff, and chief of security, or designees, will conduct periodic reviews of adult offender worker placements in health care units.
4. Youth offenders are prohibited from performing health care duties in youth facilities in accordance with *ACA Performance-based Standard 4-JCF-4C-57*.

B. Security Precautions

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1. Each facility will develop security procedures to ensure that adult offenders do not have access to:
 - a. needles;
 - b. syringes;
 - c. sharps;
 - d. surgical instruments;
 - e. medications;
 - f. offender health care records or files; and
 - g. other prohibited items.
2. Security precautions will include:
 - a. appropriate inventory procedures; and
 - b. required supervision and routine searches of all adult offenders working in the health care unit.

V. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department medical director or health services bureau chief.

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *4-4393; ACA Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 4th Edition*
- B. *4-JCF-4C-57; ACA Performance-based Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2009*
- C. *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards, 2008*
- D. *Montana Nurse Practice Act*

VII. ATTACHMENTS

None.