



POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	DOC 4.5.23 OFFENDER HEALTH CARE ESCORT AND TRANSPORT
Effective Date:	01/01/1998 Page 1 of 2
Revision Date(s):	04/19/2021; 04/24/2026
Department Director Signature:	/s/ Eric Strauss, Director
Medical Director Signature:	/s/ Dr. Paul Rees, MD
Health Services Bureau Chief Signature:	/s/ Cynthia McGillis-Hiner, RN, MSN

I. POLICY

Department facilities will ensure that offenders are escorted and transported safely and promptly to medical, mental health, and dental clinic appointments both inside and outside the facility.

II. APPLICABILITY

All secure facilities Department-owned and contracted, as specified in contract.

III. DEFINITIONS (see Glossary)

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. General Requirements

1. Patient confidentiality is maintained by staff during all transports and escorts.
2. When an offender is transported, health care staff will alert transporting custody staff to accommodations needed during the transport process, including instructions for administration of necessary medications.
3. Staff involved in transportation of offenders will be provided information regarding times and frequency for offenders to self-administer ordered medications during transport.

B. In-House Movement/Escort

1. Facility administrators will ensure security staff is available to escort offenders from housing to clinic areas for scheduled health care appointments and emergency medical needs.
2. When possible, health care providers will see the offender in a clinical area within the housing unit.
3. If the offender's ability to walk to the health services unit is compromised, health care providers will be consulted beforehand to ensure the mode of transportation is appropriate to the nature of the medical problem.

C. Off-Site Referrals/Transportation

1. Facility health care providers and correctional staff will provide offender emergency health care or transport in accordance with *DOC 4.5.22 Offender Health Care Continuity* and *DOC 4.5.20 Emergency Medical Services*.
2. Each Qualified Health Care Professional (QHCP) will:
 - a. make all non-emergency off-site medical referrals according to protocols outlined by the Department Medical Director;
 - b. establish applicable off-site referral notification procedures;
 - c. provide security transport staff with only the amount of offender medical information necessary to ensure offender and staff protection and safety; and
 - d. if indicated, make special arrangements to ensure continuity of care by providing written instructions, medications, and supplies in accordance with *DOC 4.5.22 Offender Health Care Continuity*.

D. Appointments

1. Facility health staff will establish a system to track missed appointments.
2. The designated health authority will investigate missed appointments and take corrective action when needed.

V. CLOSING

Questions about this policy should be directed to the Health Services Bureau Chief.

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *P-DE-106; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2018*
- B. *MH-E-08; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities, 2015*
- C. *Y-E-10; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities, 2022*
- D. *DOC 4.5.20 Emergency Medical Services; 4.5.22 Offender Health Care Continuity*