



## POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	<b>DOC 4.5.26 OFFENDER DENTAL SERVICES</b>
Effective Date:	07/01/1998 <span style="float: right;">Page 1 of 2</span>
Revision Date(s):	04/19/2021; 04/24/2026
Department Director Signature:	/s/ Eric Strauss, Director
Medical Director Signature:	/s/ Paul Rees, MD
Health Services Bureau Chief Signature:	/s/ Cynthia McGillis-Hiner, RN, MSN

### I. POLICY

Department facilities will provide offender dental services under the direction and supervision of a licensed dentist, including dental screenings upon admission and clinically indicated services during incarceration.

### II. APPLICABILITY

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

### III. DEFINITIONS (see Glossary)

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

#### A. General Requirements

1. Each facility will establish offender dental services to include the following:
  - a. oral screenings conducted as part of the intake process;
  - b. a timely comprehensive oral examination provided by a dentist to determine needed follow-up dental care;
  - c. diagnostic radiographs taken as needed to support the comprehensive examination and oral treatment plan;
  - d. instructions on oral hygiene provided by Qualified Health Care Professionals;
  - e. triaged oral treatment plans that identify existing dental needs and proposed oral treatment;
  - f. prioritizing clinically indicated treatment, including emergent, urgent, and routine dental health care needs;
  - g. oral treatment that may include routine restorative treatment, extractions and other oral surgery, endodontic treatment, dental cleanings and periodontal care, and partial and complete dentures. The triaged oral 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 oral care as part of a continuum of care unaffected by offender transfer from one facility to another;
  - j. a formal communication process by which offenders may access care; and
  - k. consultation and referral to dental specialists, including oral surgeons, when necessary.

2. To ensure the most urgent and important oral treatment is completed in a timely manner for all offenders, a treatment rotation program will be implemented at each facility. The highest priority dental care needs that can be addressed in a given dental appointment are resolved first. The offender is then placed on the oral treatment list for one appointment at a time until all other high priority dental care needs have been attended to.

## **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 oral care and report such analysis to the facility administrator and Health Services Bureau Chief on a regular basis.
3. All facilities will follow *DOC 4.5.26A Dental Services* and other Department dental health care and security policies and cooperate with the Health Services Bureau concerning offender oral care.
4. Offender noncompliance with good oral hygiene practices, for example, plaque control, may not be used as a basis to deny needed oral care.

## **V. CLOSING**

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

## **VI. REFERENCES**

- A. *P-E-06, P-F-01; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2018*
- B. *DOC 4.5.26A Dental Services*
- C. *Y-E-06; National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards in Juveniles Detention and Confinement Facilities, 2022*