



POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	DOC 4.5.44 COMMUNICATION ON OFFENDER HEALTH NEEDS
Effective Date:	01/04/2021 Page 1 of 2
Revision Date(s):	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

The Department will ensure communication occurs between facility administration and treating health staff regarding offender's significant health needs that must be considered in classification decisions in order to preserve the health and safety of that offender, other offenders, or staff.

II. APPLICABILITY

All secure facilities Department-owned and contracted.

III. DEFINITIONS (see Glossary)

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. General Requirements

1. Custody staff are advised of an offender's special health needs that may affect the following:
 - a. housing;
 - b. work assignments;
 - c. program assignments;
 - d. disciplinary measures;
 - e. transport to and from outside appointments;
 - f. admissions to and transfers from facilities;
 - g. clothing or appearance; and
 - h. activities of daily living.

B. Offender Special Needs Conditions

1. Health care staff and custody staff communicate about accommodations for conditions that may include but not limited to the following:
 - a. chronically ill (for example, diabetes)
 - b. on dialysis
 - c. have communicable diseases that require special housing or isolation
 - d. physically disabled
 - e. pregnant
 - f. age-related needs

- g. terminally ill
- h. mentally ill or suicidal
- i. Physical or sexual abuse
- j. physical or mental contraindications to restraint or seclusion
- k. intellectually disabled
- l. vulnerable to manipulation
- m. require protection from physical or sexual abuse
- n. hearing or vision impaired
- o. require limb prosthetics
- p. gender dysphoria, transgender
- q. adolescent insomnia
- r. require medical supplies

C. Mental Health Special Needs

1. Mental health staff and custody staff communicate about offenders with special mental health needs that may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. chronic mental illness;
 - b. suicidal ideation or behavior;
 - c. intellectual and developmental disability;
 - d. significant substance use histories;
 - e. suspected or known victims of physical or sexual abuse; and
 - f. other serious mental health problems.

V. CLOSING

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

VI. REFERENCES

- A. *P-B-07; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Prisons, 2018*
- B. *MH-A-08; National Commission on Correctional Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities, 2015*
- C. *Y-B-07; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities, 2022*