



Colorado Springs Police Department Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1011-02 Medical Clearances

Section 1000 – Patrol Functions

Effective Date: 7/24/2025

Supersedes Date: 10/17/2024

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to define the manner in which medical clearances are obtained for arrestees so that they can be admitted into the age-appropriate holding facility.

.02 Cross-Reference

[GO 1011 III or Injured Arrestees](#)

.03 Definitions

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.04 Procedure

Once an arrestee is admitted into custody of a holding facility (e.g., The El Paso County Jail, Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center), that agency assumes liability for that person's medical care. Consequently, the agency has a legitimate right to know the medical status of an arrestee before admittance.

The mere existence of a medical condition or injury does not render a suspect immune to arrest. This procedure aims to strike a balance between these two competing interests and provide for the most efficient processing of ill or injured arrestees.

Adult Medical Clearances

The Sheriff's Office has determined that those arrestees with the following injuries and/or conditions will not be admitted into the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) without a medical clearance from a physician:

When an officer has a suspect in custody and is transporting them to CJC, the officer must ask the individual the first eight questions on the **Medical Clearance Guidance** form. Additional guidance is provided below:

1. **Was the arrestee involved in a reportable Use of Force incident?**
 - Medical clearance is not required for minor use-of-force incidents resulting in only pain with no injury.
 - Medical clearance is necessary if force results in any injury.
 - If there is no visible injury, but the individual complains of injury to jail staff, medical clearance may still be required.
2. **Was the arrestee subjected to a stun gun, taser, or other conducted energy weapon, or a temporary restraining device during or after the arrest?**
 - "Temporary device" refers to handcuffs and/or flex cuffs. Medical clearance is needed only if the restraint causes injury.
3. **Has the arrestee been involved in a traffic accident in the last 48 hours?**
4. **Does the arrestee appear to be under the influence of medications, illicit drugs, or other substances?**
 - Is the individual unconscious, semi-conscious, severely intoxicated, or experiencing withdrawal (e.g., unable to walk unaided, clearly in need of medical attention, etc.)?
5. **Did the arrestee ingest any illegal substances.**
 - This question is not intended for those who may have used a personal amount of drugs recently.
6. **Does the arrestee have any internal/external medical devices?**
7. **Does the arrestee have any open wounds or injuries requiring medical attention?**
 - This includes, but is not limited to, ligature marks, bone fractures, and serious wounds.
8. **Is the arrestee pregnant or visibly pregnant?**
 - If the individual suspects they are pregnant or is visibly pregnant, medical clearance is required.

If the answer to any of the above questions is "yes," the officer **must** take the arrestee for medical clearance. Keep in mind that a person does not require medical clearance solely for mental health-related issues.

Once at the hospital, the officer should request a medical clearance from staff - a written statement that specifies the patient's specific medical clearance.

However, based on specific procedures at different hospitals, medical staff may elect not to provide the officer with full details. If this happens, officers should not insist but must notify CJC upon arrival that the medical clearance was completed by the hospital medical staff and they

can reach out directly to the provider, in this case they should gather the name of the doctor and any phone number to speed up the communication with the Jail staff.

Medical Clearance Forms

A completed medical clearance form, provided by hospital personnel, is required for any arrestee who has been medically cleared before entering CJC. Discharge paperwork is not a substitute for a medical clearance form and will not be accepted at CJC.

Officers must obtain a completed medical clearance form that says the arrestee is 'medically cleared for incarceration'. Officers should ensure this is written/listed in the discharge diagnosis section of the medical clearance form. Officers are reminded that medical clearances must come from a physician at an area hospital; field medical clearances will not be accepted.

Department personnel with questions regarding whether an arrestee requires a medical clearance may call the on-duty CJC nurse at [Redacted].

If, in the opinion of the attending physician, the suspect is not well enough to be placed in jail and they are admitted to the hospital, the applicable procedures regarding hospitalized arrestees will be followed.

Juvenile Medical Clearances

Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center requires medical clearances on the following injuries and/or conditions without a medical clearance by a physician before admittance into the facility:

- Active bleeding
- Lacerations requiring sutures
- Possible fractures or dislocations
- Seizure disorder without medication
- Moderate to severe head injuries that resulted in the loss of consciousness or vomiting
- Cervical or spinal injuries
- Chest pain
- Abdominal pain
- Severe pain of any type
- Under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Medication-dependent diabetics without required medication

- A youth with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease
- The inability to walk or stand unassisted
- Unexplained vision or hearing loss

Officers are reminded to use the "Health Screen" to determine admittance into The Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center, as it will facilitate the overall process of placing the juvenile.

Paperwork Submissions

The transporting officer will be responsible for providing the holding facility staff with the required paperwork to admit the suspect, including the medical clearance form and medical clearance guidance form.

In those cases where the arrestee appears intoxicated to the degree that it causes concern for their safety, a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) may be used to determine the subject's blood alcohol content (BAC). When this is done, the officer should indicate the BAC level of the arrestee on the medical clearance form in the space marked as "Police Officer's Notes."

Medical Clearance Guidance forms to provide to the hospital are available on the library drive.

Medical Clearances for Runaways

CSPD personnel shall not facilitate medical clearances for juvenile runaways solely based on a request from the Department of Human Services (DHS). Medical clearances will be conducted only for individuals who are required to undergo such evaluations and who are currently in custody of CSPD personnel.

In instances involving juveniles contacted for status offenses, transportation to a medical facility will be provided only if the individual is a detainee or arrestee, and the officer has the legal authority to facilitate the transport.

If DHS personnel request that CSPD personnel provide transportation for a juvenile, officers must consult with their supervisor before taking any action.