

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Classification of Dental Units

Policy Number: 507.05.01

Effective Date: 02/22/2022

Page Number: 1 of 3

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Health Services Division
(Dental Health)

Access List:
Level II: Required Offender
Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

All Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) facilities will be classified regarding dental care into one of five different levels. The basis for these levels includes the mission of the dental department and the type of dental services available. This procedure is applicable to all facilities that house state offenders to include private and county prisons.

II. Authority:

- A. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 125-4-4-.07;
- B. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 507.04.05 Charges to Offender Accounts for Health Care Provided, 507.04.27 Sick Call, 507.05.04 Specialized Dental Services and Consultations, 507.05.05 Dental Radiographic Services, 507.05.06 Dental Screening, Examination, and Profiling, 507.05.07 Dental Treatment Priorities, 507.05.11 Dental Unit Report, and 507.05.12 Auditing the Dental Unit.
- C. NCCHC Adult Standard: PE-06; and
- D. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-19, 5-ACI-6A-21, 5-ACI-6A-25, 5-ACI-6A-07, and 5-ACI-6A-10 (Mandatory).

III. Definitions: None.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. **Level I:** Level I facilities are those facilities without in-house dental care that provide access to routine dental services on a fee-for-service basis, through a private dental practice.
 - 1. Transitional Centers: Permanent resident offenders currently housed at a Transitional Center will have access to routine dental services at the neighboring GDC host facility.

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- B. **Level II:** Level II facilities are those facilities without in-house dental care that provide dental screening and access to emergency dental care. An appropriately trained health care worker does intake screening at the facility. Emergency dental care is provided by either a dentist employed at a neighboring GDC facility or a dentist from the local community who works under a mutually agreed to contract with the GDC.

The facilities in the Level II classification include:

1. Residential Substance Abuse and Treatment Centers;
2. Detention Centers; and
3. Integrated Treatment Facilities.

- C. **Level III:** Level III facilities are those state and private prisons that provide access to routine dental care. Access to dental services is provided at the facility, or by transporting them to a neighboring GDC facility.

The facilities in the Level III classification include:

1. All state and private prisons other than listed in Levels IV or V;
2. County Correctional Institutions that house GDC offenders.
3. Level II facilities in which the GDC offender has been housed for longer than six months.

- D. **Level IV:** Level IV facilities are those state prisons that provide routine dental care to the resident population and provide diagnostic and emergency services to incoming offenders. Access to dental services is provided at the facility.

The facilities in the Level IV classification include:

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1. Coastal State Prison;
2. Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison;
3. Lee Arrendale State Prison;
4. Baldwin State Prison; and
5. Washington State Prison

E. **Level V:** Augusta State Medical Prison is the only Level V facility. The mission of this facility is to provide specialized dental services for the GDC and to provide routine care to the resident population.

These services may include but are not limited to the following types of cases:

1. Advanced oral surgery;
2. Hospital dentistry;
3. IV sedation and general anesthesia; and
4. Other types of patient care beyond the scope of routine care at an offender's resident facility (See SOP 507.05.04, Specialized Dental Services and Consultations).

V. **Attachments:** None.

VI. **Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:** None.