

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Dental Treatment Priorities

Policy Number: 507.05.07

Effective Date: 09/03/2020

Page Number: 1 of 3

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Health Services Division
(Dental Health)

Access Listing:
Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

An established priority system will be used to guide treatment decisions. This procedure is applicable to all facilities that house Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) offenders to include county and private prisons.

II. Authority:

- A. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 507.04.37 Urgent/Emergent Care Services, 507.05.03 Guidelines for Dental Treatment, 507.05.04 Specialized Dental Services at ASMP, 507.05.05 Dental Radiographic Services, 507.05.06 Dental Screening, Evaluation and Profiling, and 507.05.12 Auditing the Dental Unit;
- B. NCCHC Adult Standard: PE-06;
- C. NCCHC Juvenile Standard: Y-37; and
- D. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-19 (ref. 4-4360), 5-ACI-6A-08 (ref. 4-4351, Mandatory), 5-ACI-6A-10 (ref. 4-4353, Mandatory) and 4-ALDF-4C-20.

III. Definitions: None.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. The following are the priority codes to be used. They will be entered on the Dental Daily Report form (D-69-0001.02) as an aid to the CQI process. They are listed in order of priority of treatment both for the patient pool within a facility and for an individual offender.
 - 1. Emergency (E):
 - a. This classification will take precedence over all others. These patients require immediate care which includes those conditions that are:

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- 1) Potentially life-threatening (e.g., severe infection, hemorrhage).
 - 2) Where delay would be inappropriate to insure safe treatment or proper healing (e.g., some facial fractures).
 - 3) Where there is a significant degree of pain or infection involved (to be determined by the examining dentist or designee according to guidelines established by each facility for acute emergencies).
- b. When necessary, offenders in this group may be transferred on an ASAP basis to Augusta State Medical Prison via the Utilization Management process. Life threatening emergencies may be treated by local specialists and then transferred to ASMP for recovery. See SOP 507.04.37.
2. Urgent (U):
- a. These offenders, if treatment is requested, should receive treatment within seven (7) days. It includes these conditions:
 - 1) Where the patient is in severe pain (to be determined by the examining dentist).
 - 2) Where a chronic or acute infection is involved and a significant delay could compromise the patient's health.
 - b. Patients with Urgent (U) or Emergent (E) needs should be treated, prior to non-medical transfer to another facility.
3. Routine (R):

Access to routine services will be provided to those offenders housed at their resident facility. Generally, this will be in the order in which the request for treatment was received. Offenders at intake facilities over six months may also

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be eligible for routine treatment. Routine treatment will be provided in accordance with SOP 507.05.03 (Guidelines for Dental Treatment).

B. All forms associated with this SOP may be found on the GDC Intranet at Captiva/Resources/Health Services Documents/04 Dental Health/Dental Forms.

V. **Attachments:** None.

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