

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Scope of Treatment Services

Policy Number: 507.04.07

Effective Date: 10/14/2022

Page Number: 1 of 4

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Health Services Division
(Physical Health)

Access Listing:
Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

Offenders in the custody of the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) will receive the full range of treatment services necessary to meet contemporary standards in the community. Additional services will be provided as necessary to identify medical problems that might deteriorate as a result of the correctional environment or that might be hazardous to other offenders or staff. The ultimate decision regarding standard of care rests with the GDC Statewide Medical Director. This policy is applicable to all facilities that house GDC offenders to include private and county prisons.

II. Authority:

A. O.C.G.A. §§16-12-141, 31-9B-2 and 42-5-2;

B. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 507.01.01 Health Care Philosophy and Right to Treatment, 507.04.10 Consultations and Procedures, 507.04.20 Offender Orientation for Access to Health Services, 507.04.22 Optical Services, 507.04.37 Urgent and Emergent Care Services, 507.04.27 Sick Call, 507.04.28 Chronic Care, 507.04.42 Infirmary Care, 507.04.09 Hospital and Specialized Ambulatory Care, 507.04.43 Medication Distribution System, and 507.05.03 Guidelines for Dental Treatment;

C. NCCHC 2018 Adult Standards: P-A-01 and P-E-01; and

D. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-01 (Mandatory), 5-ACI-6C-15, 4-ALDF-4C-15, 4-ALDF-4C-16, 4-ALDF-4C-17, 4-ALDF-4C-41, and 4-ACRS-4C-17.

III. Definitions: None.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedure:

All offenders will receive an intake screening, physical assessment, mental health assessment, appropriate lab tests, indicated vaccinations, and infectious disease screening on intake.

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- A. Offenders will receive an orientation and be informed about how to access health services, mental health services, and the grievance system. This information is communicated orally and in writing and is conveyed in a language that is easily understood by each offender.
- B. Offenders will receive optical services in accordance with GDC guidelines for optical services, see SOP 507.04.22, Optical Services.
- C. Offenders will receive dental services in accordance with GDC guidelines for dental treatment, see SOP 507.05.03, Guidelines for Dental Treatment.
- D. Offenders will receive care in the following subcategories as indicated:
 - 1. Self-Care Education: Education about conditions that can be treated by the offender and may include nonprescription medication.
 - 2. First Aid Care: Care for a condition that requires assistance from a person trained in first aid procedures.
 - 3. Emergent/Urgent Care: Care for an acute illness, injury or health care need that cannot be deferred until the next scheduled sick call or clinic.
 - 4. Sick Call: Evaluation and rendering of appropriate care for an ambulatory offender by a qualified health care provider.
 - 5. Chronic Clinic Care: Evaluation and rendering appropriate care for an offender with a chronic illness as defined by chronic care clinic protocols.
 - 6. Regional Medical Facility and/or Infirmary Care: Inpatient care for illness, injury, or diagnostic work-up requiring observation and/or medical management that does not require admission to a community hospital. This includes inpatient care at the Augusta State Medical Prison (ASMP).

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7. Hospital Care: Inpatient care for illness, injury, or diagnostic work-up requiring admission to an accredited hospital in the community.
- E. All offenders will receive appropriate medication therapy and therapeutic diets as ordered by the provider.
- F. Offenders requiring specialized services including dialysis, physical therapy, and respiratory therapy will receive those services as ordered by the provider. Respiratory isolation will be provided for offenders who have infectious airborne diseases.
- G. All offenders requiring subspecialty consultation will receive those services either locally or through ASMP. The requirement for subspecialty services will be determined by the Utilization Management Office or by the GDC Statewide Medical Director in disputed cases.
- H. All female offenders will have access to reproductive and gynecological services subject to the provisions of Georgia law. Terminations are not available if the unborn child has a detectable human heartbeat except when:
 1. A physician determines, in reasonable medical judgment, that a medical emergency exists;
 2. The probable gestational age of the unborn child is 20 weeks or less and the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest in which an official police report has been filed alleging the offense of rape or incest; or
 3. A physician determines, in reasonable medical judgment, that the pregnancy is medically futile.
- I. Mental Health Services will be available to all offenders.
- J. All services listed in this SOP will be available to offenders in the restrictive housing units.

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K. Experimental or non-conventional treatments may be requested by offenders and will be provided only after approval by the GDC Statewide Medical Director.

V. **Attachments:** None.

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