

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Medical Prostheses

Policy Number: 507.04.63

Effective Date: 02/15/2022

Page Number: 1 of 4

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Health Services Division
(Physical Health)

Access Listing:
Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

Medical Prostheses will be provided for offenders when:

- A. They are clinically indicated because of a substantial functional deficit; or,
- B. There is demonstrable, substantial inability to perform activities of daily living (ADL).

This policy is applicable to all facilities that house Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) offenders to include county prisons.

II. Authority:

- A. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 103.63 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II Provisions and 507.04.23 Medical Classification and Profiling;
- B. NCCHC Adult Standard: P-F-01; and
- C. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-40 and 4-ALDF-4C-35.

III. Definitions:

Prostheses - An artificial device to replace or augment a missing or impaired part of the body.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. Indications for Medical Prostheses: All requests for medical Prostheses will be evaluated for approval by the responsible physician. Recommendations for Prostheses will be based upon the offender's ability to function in the correctional environment.
- B. Issuing Medical Prostheses:
 - 1. Prosthetic devices may be issued after appropriate subspecialty assessment or

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if there is a clearly established need identified by the responsible physician. The same medical necessity rationale applies to established offenders in need of prosthetics as for those entering the GDC with a prosthetic device.

2. Requests for Prostheses will be considered on a case-by-case basis for any offender who is entering the system with a pre-existing medical condition and to improve the ability to function in the correctional environment.
3. An offender entering the system with a pre-existing medical condition (i.e., limb loss) will be considered for a medical prosthesis to be issued within a reasonable period. During the inevitable waiting period, the offender may be assigned to an environment medically suitable for his/her ADL related problem, i.e., infirmary or special medical need bed.
4. A medical prosthesis will not be replaced unless defective or currently inadequate to fulfill its purpose.
5. A medical prosthesis will not be prescribed for the primary purposes of cosmetics.
6. Should recommendations of various health service providers differ regarding the issuance of a prosthetic device, the final authority will rest with the GDC Statewide Medical Director in consultation with the Agency ADA Coordinator.
7. When a medical prosthesis is issued, the offender will sign a receipt for the medical product assuming responsibility for care of the item.

C. Confiscation of a Medical Prosthesis:

1. Should the removal of a prosthetic device be required for any reason other than medical (i.e., confiscation), consultation with the responsible health authority or designee and the facility ADA Coordinator prior to removal must occur.

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2. The restriction or removal of a prosthetic device, whether issued to an established offender or present prior to incarceration, requires medical consultation at the MD level and the facility ADA Coordinator, including circumstances in which a security issue may arise.
3. The medical consultation regarding restriction or removal of a prosthetic device will include discussion with senior security personnel and the facility ADA Coordinator.
4. Issues that cannot be resolved at the facility level through consultation among the Warden/Superintendent's Office, the Institutional Medical Director, and the Facility ADA Coordinator will be addressed to the GDC Statewide Medical Director for resolution in consultation with the Agency ADA Coordinator.

D. Procedures for Monitoring Physical Status of Prosthetic Devices:

1. For each offender with a prosthetic device, a medical profile card with the appropriate documentation will be issued. Each profile card should be updated when deemed necessary and presented by the offender on demand. A medical profile will be entered into SCRIBE and the offender will present documentation of the profile on demand, via provided OMS schedule.
2. The frequency of monitoring of Prostheses will be determined by medical or upon request, by security. Further monitoring will be at the discretion of and in accordance with the Facilities Division protocol.
3. Medical documentation for each offender with a medical prosthesis will include, but is not limited to:
 - a. A written justification for the device;
 - b. Progress notes in the medical records;
 - c. A profile card with confirmed documentation in SCRIBE; and

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- d. A written description of any alterations, natural wear, or destruction observed.
4. Offenders with Prostheses require their medical grade determinations to be made with the utmost care and in accordance with SOP 507.04.23. Further, the offender needs evaluation as a potential candidate for Assisted Living Unit. This should be accomplished by means of a functional status screening.
5. All medical and other documentation regarding Prostheses at an Institution will be organized and maintained in accordance with GDC Policies and Procedures and is subject to review by the Office of Health Services.

NOTE: All forms associated with this SOP may be found on the GDC Intranet at Captiva/Resources/Health Services Document/02 Physical Health/Health Record Manual.

V. Attachments: None.

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