



CORRECTIONS MEDICINE
Patients with Special Needs
ACA Standard: 4 ALDF – 4C – 40 and 4D – 20

Effective: March 1997

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Policy Number:
CM – 08

- I. **PURPOSE:** To provide care for patients with special needs during incarceration.

- II. **POLICY:** Corrections Medicine nurses shall screen for patients with special needs, and will communicate these identified individuals to the appropriate Department of Justice Services (DJS) staff members to assure appropriate housing requirements or program assignments in the Buzz Westfall Justice Center and/or transfers to other health care facilities. A written individualized treatment plan shall be developed for patients who require close medical supervision, which shall include directions to health care and other personnel regarding their roles in the care and supervision of these patients.

- III. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All staff members working for Corrections Medicine are responsible for the contents of and adherence to this policy and procedure.

- IV. **PROCEDURE:**
 - 1. Screening upon intake is completed by the Corrections Medicine intake staff to identify medical and psychiatric needs.
 - 2. Any medical or mental health issue(s) requiring immediate attention may require an evaluation at a hospital to determine if the patient is fit for confinement prior to admission.
 - 3. The patient care plan is devised by the medical provider or designee and will specify the course of therapy and those personnel responsible for the care. The patient care plan will include objectives and goals and the anticipated methods of attaining them.
 - 4. Support services, including counseling will be specified as needed.
 - 5. Communication between the DJS staff and Corrections Medicine staff shall be maintained for special living conditions, but is limited to, the following conditions:
 - a. Suicidal/homicidal ideation
 - b. Developmental disability
 - c. Dementia
 - d. Severe mental illness or psychosis
 - 6. Patients with chronic medical conditions shall have treatment plans tailored to their needs written by a mental health provider. Special medical problems are noted in the patient’s problem list in the medical record.

7. Patients who are housed in the Buzz Westfall Justice Center and identified as having special needs related to their condition shall have a case review at the bi-weekly Treatment Team meeting consisting of medical, mental health and DJS staff to identify any needs or conflicts in medical and security needs.
8. When transferring a patient outside the facility:
 - a. Suitability for travel shall be based on an evaluation by a provider.
 - b. The Corrections Medicine staff shall provide a summary of pertinent health information, including a current problem(s) list, medications, and any other documentation deemed appropriate, to send with the patient.

V. **REFERENCES:**

National Commission on Correctional Health: 2015 Jail Health Standards; Standard J-I-08 and J-G-03.

American Correctional Association; Performance-Based Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities; Fourth Edition; Standard ALDF-4C-40; Standard ALDF-4D-20