



**CORRECTIONS MEDICINE**  
**Elective Medical Procedures**  
**ACA Standard: 4 ALDF – 4D – 03**

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Policy Number:  
CM – 31.2

- I. **PURPOSE:** To ensure that necessary medical services are prioritized and provided to patients in the care of the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health.
- II. **POLICY:** Medical and psychiatric providers at the Buzz Westfall Justice Center have autonomy in making decisions regarding the care provided to patients. Providers shall determine if a medical procedure is medically necessary or elective in nature.
- III. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All staff working in the Corrections Medicine program are responsible for the content of this policy and procedure as well as adherence to the policy.
- IV. **PROCEDURE:**
  1. The medical and psychiatric providers that oversee the Buzz Westfall Justice Center are professionals and are afforded autonomy in their treatment decisions.
  2. When a provider identifies a patient with an issue that warrants specialty care, the provider will specify if the issue is medically necessary at that time.
  3. The provider should take the following issues into consideration when considering elective specialty care interventions:
    - a. The amenability of the patient’s condition to treatment.
    - b. The consequences to the patient if treatment does not occur.
    - c. The likelihood of the patient achieving a favorable outcome if the elective intervention takes place.
    - d. Patient function and quality of life
  4. All referrals shall be subject to review according to Corrections Medicine guidelines. All specialty care referrals that are determined to be elective will be reviewed by the provider team and discussed in order to deliver appropriate care for the patient and prioritize the utilization of resources.