


Chapter: **Health Care**

Classification: **Public Document**

Subject: **Access Health Care**

For: **All Custody**


Authorized by the Executive Director

Policy

- 1 Sections 25 and 26 of the *Correctional Services Act* provides that the delivery of health services to persons in custody is the responsibility of the Minister of Health, who designates health services as follows:
 - (a) The Nova Scotia Health (NSH) for adults in custody and designate
 - (b) The IWK Health Centre to deliver the services for young persons in custody.
- 2 Correctional Services will coordinate with the Nova Scotia Health (NSH) and the IWK Youth Clinical and Forensic Services for the provision of medical, mental health and dental health care in adult facilities and youth centres in accordance with their policies.

Access to Health Care

- 3 All people in custody will have access to health care. During health care's scheduled hours, correctional staff will communicate to health care staff when a person requires immediate medical attention.
- 4 In correctional facilities where twenty-four (24) hour access to health care is not available, and a person requires immediate medical attention, correctional staff will
 - (a) Contact Emergency Health Services (EHS) to attend the facility, or
 - (b) Arrange for the transport of the individual requiring immediate medical attention to the local emergency room

Medication Distribution


- 5 Correctional Services staff are
 - (a) Not authorized to distribute medication in the absence of health care staff
 - (b) Responsible for ensuring
 - i. persons are present and on time for medication distribution
 - ii. the person carries appropriate identification to receive medication
 - iii. unsecured medication is not left unattended

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Confinement/Secure Separation for Medical Reasons

- 6 Persons in custody requiring close supervision and/or ongoing treatment for medical reasons may be confined/separated to a cell at the request of health care. In these instances, the
- (a) Superintendent, Youth Custody Manager or delegate will request health care staff provide documentation on the Correctional Health Services Communication Form to support the person's ongoing confinement/separation
 - (b) Correctional Health Services Communication Form will be
 - i. affixed outside the person's cell in adult facilities
 - ii. issued by a nurse to the living unit Youth Worker and placed in the communication book at the staff post at Nova Scotia Youth Centre
 - (c) Person will
 - i. remain in confinement/separation until cleared by health care
 - ii. receive programs and privileges in accordance with the
 - a applicable Policy and Procedures, Chapter 43.00.00 [Close Confinement](#) or 43.03.00 [Secure Separation](#)
 - b medical treatment plan
- 7 A person in custody who presents signs and symptoms of infectious disease, as described on the Health Information Transfer Form, will be placed in isolation under medical confinement/separation as a precaution to prevent the spread of suspected disease until cleared by health care staff, see Policy and Procedures, Subject No.
- (a) 46.06.00, [Health Information Upon Admission](#)
 - (b) 6.11.00, [Pandemic Situations](#)

Outside Medical Appointments


- 8 Referrals to outside medical agencies may be made if deemed necessary by health care staff.

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- 9 Correctional Services will coordinate with health care staff on all scheduled appointments to determine transportation requirements.
- 10 Correctional Services staff escorting persons on outside medical appointments will ensure the treatment provider is given any Outside Agency Referral documentation, as provided by Nova Scotia Health.
- 11 The completed Outside Agency Referral documentation will be given to the escorting officer in a sealed envelope addressed to the health professional with whom the person has an appointment.
- 12 Escorting staff will ensure they retrieve the Outside Agency Referral documentation from the treatment provider in a sealed envelope and return it to the correctional facility after the person has been seen.
- 13 In facilities with twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week health care coverage, the Outside Agency Referral documentation will be taken to the health care unit upon return to the facility.
- 14 In facilities where health care staff is not available, the Outside Agency Referral documentation will be
 - (a) Returned to the manager upon return to the facility
 - (b) Placed in the health care folder for review during health care staff's next scheduled shift
 - (c) Retrieved by Correctional staff if the individual requires a subsequent medical escort before the health care staff's next scheduled shift

Ambulance Services

- 15 Fees associated with ambulance services will be paid for by Correctional Services through proceeds from the trust account.

Refusal of Medical Treatment


- 16 When a person refuses to attend an outside medical appointment or a local emergency room, the person will be required to complete a Refusal of Medical Treatment Form ([46.00.00-D](#)).

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- (a) If the person refuses to complete the form, the manager will complete the form.
- 17 The manager requesting the person to complete the form will ensure that the original form
 - (a) Is placed uploaded to the person's file on JEIN
 - (b) Copied and forwarded to health care

Standard Operating Procedures

- 18 The Superintendent or Youth Custody Manager is required to consult with health care staff and develop SOP to identify the
 - (a) Procedure for accessing urgent health care
 - (b) Medication distribution procedures for correctional services staff and include
 - i. medication distribution times
 - ii. process for verifying person's identity
 - iii. required observation period following administration
 - (c) Process for a person in custody to request health care
 - (d) Process for communicating the Correctional Health Services Communication form in adult facilities
 - (e) Any additional requirements regarding the documentation of refusal of medical treatment
 - (f) Designation of responsibility for coordinating outside medical escorts with health care staff