PURPOSE: To provide a framework for the delivery of health services and ensure the health care services are evaluated and continually approved.

POLICY:

I. Written statements of policy necessary for the administration and operation of the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee (CMHCC), its agents, and the TDCJ Health Services Division are developed by appropriate authorities, approved by the Joint Medical Directors and placed in the Health Services Policy Manual.

II. The CMHC Health Services Policy manual contains:

A. Statements of policy that guide the delivery of health services to meet accreditation standards, relevant laws and regulations, and judicial mandates.

B. Statements or references to policy and associated procedures from TDCJ administrative and executive directives applicable to all or selected departments and personnel.

III. Authority for approval of all policies in the manual rests with the CMHCC in coordination with the joint medical directors.

IV. Facility policies and/or procedures requiring facility specific processes that describe in detail their implementation are developed at the facility level and approved by the facility medical director (TTUHSC)/management team (UTMB) and the regional management team. These manuals are reviewed annually by the appropriate management team to ensure compliance with Texas Department of Criminal Justice Administrative and Executive Directives.

V. Copies of all CMHC policy and procedure manuals are distributed to the facility medical director (TTUHSC)/management team (UTMB) and the facility security staff in a manner that makes them readily accessible to the Health Services staff.

VI. The policies for the statewide CMHC Health Services manual are reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary. A joint policy review committee is appointed biannually by the joint medical directors. The committee is represented by members of each discipline and is responsible for the annual review of policies and for the review of new policies and proposed policy revisions.

A. New policies and revisions to existing policies may be proposed by any health services or CMC employee. The proposed new or revised policy is reviewed and approved by the appropriate joint committee work group prior to review by the Joint Policy and Procedure Review Committee.

B. If the joint workgroup concurs with the suggestion/revision the chair will forward it to the Policy coordinator to the Joint Policy and Procedure (P&P) Committee for review.
C. If the Joint P&P Committee approves a new or revised policy the Policy Coordinator sends the proposed new or revised policy and appropriate documentation to the Joint Medical Directors.

D. The Policy Coordinator notifies all holders of the statewide CMHC policy manual of approved policies and posts to the CMHC website in a timely manner.

E. The annual review of existing policies is completed no later than October of each year. During each year, 25% of the policies will be reviewed each quarter.

F. The Policy Coordinator distributes the annual revision signature page to all holders of the TDCJ policy manual in January of each year.

Reference: ACA Standard 5-6B-4380
ACA Standard 5-6D-4424