

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 11/5/2019	NUMBER: A-10.1 Page 1 of 2
	Replaces: 11/14/2017	
	Formulated: 3/85	
	Reviewed: 10/2022	
NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS REGARDING CRITICALLY ILL INMATES		

PURPOSE: To establish an efficient and timely system of notifying emergency contacts when an inmate becomes critically ill or a pregnant inmate experiences fetal demise.

POLICY: In the event an inmate becomes critically ill or when a pregnant inmate experiences fetal demise, the Warden/Facility Administrator shall make the appropriate notifications of the inmate’s emergency contact in accordance with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Administrative Directive (AD) 06.10, “Notification Requirements Regarding Critically Ill Inmates.”

DEFINITIONS:

Critically ill refers to any illness or injury that is life- or limb-threatening as determined by licensed health care staff.

Emergency contact is the individual(s) identified and whose name(s) and contact information has been documented in the inmate’s permanent classification file as the person to contact in the event of a medical emergency.

Fetal demise (or stillbirth) is defined as fetal death occurring during pregnancy at 20 weeks gestation or later.

PROCEDURES:

- I. In the event an inmate becomes critically ill while incarcerated in a TDCJ prison facility, the facility medical department shall notify the inmate’s Warden/Facility Administrator who shall make the appropriate notifications of the inmate’s emergency contact in accordance with AD 06.10, “Notification Requirements Regarding Critically Ill Inmates.”
 - A. The chaplain at Hospital Galveston (HG) is the warden’s designee who shall notify the emergency contact for an inmate whose status is considered critically ill during the inmate’s hospitalization at HG.
 - B. If the inmate is transferred to an offsite hospital, the warden or designee shall refer the emergency contact to the hospital where the inmate is receiving treatment for instructions on how to obtain the inmate’s protected health information (PHI).

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- II. The Office of Health Services Liaison (HSL) will monitor offsite hospitalizations and provide upon request to the warden (or designee) of critically ill inmate whose status has changed during hospitalization at offsite hospital. In an event a warden (or designee) needs information contact HSL at (936) 437-3589.

- III. In the event a pregnant inmate experiences fetal demise, notification of next of kin should be offered to the inmate. If the inmate consents, an Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information shall be obtained. The Warden/Facility Administrator shall then make the appropriate notifications in accordance with AD 06.10, "Notification Requirements Regarding Critically Ill Inmates."

- IV. Inmate Protected Health Information (PHI)
 - A. The dissemination of an inmate's PHI requires the inmate's written consent.

 - B. The warden (or designee) is responsible for notifying the emergency contact that the inmate has a critical condition; however, the warden (or designee) is not authorized to release the inmate's PHI. The warden (or designee) shall refer the emergency contact to the hospital where the inmate is receiving treatment for instructions on how to obtain the inmate's PHI.

Reference: ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practice 5-6C-4395
ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practice 5-6C-4396 (Mandatory)
TDCJ Administrative Directive 06.10, "Notification Requirements Regarding Critically Ill Inmates."