HEALTH APPRAISAL OF INCOMING INMATES

PURPOSE: To describe a mechanism for assessing the health status of incoming inmates.

POLICY: A comprehensive medical evaluation will be completed on all new incoming inmates, including inmates returning from bench warrant, within seven days of their arrival in the system. Inmates who have had a health appraisal in TDCJ within the previous ninety (90) days are re-evaluated in person at the discretion of the facility health authority/medical director. If a face-to-face health appraisal is not performed for any reason (including the inmate refusing a face-to-face appraisal), all departments must perform a review of the available information in order to address the inmate’s needs which can be managed outside of a face-to-face interview. This review should be performed using the departmental intake templates available in the EHR, with an indication that the inmate was not present and the reason that the inmate was not present.

PROCEDURE:

I. Reception and Diagnostic Facilities (New Inmates)

A. Appraisal of new inmates consists of obtaining personal and medical baseline data; medical, mental health and dental histories; physical, dental and mental health assessments; and diagnostic procedures as needed.

B. Inmates are screened for communicable diseases and pregnancy.

C. Inmates are provided with appropriate inoculations.

D. Inmates' health records are requested from free-world physicians as needed.

E. Inmates identified as requiring further mental health assessment are interviewed, tested and evaluated by a qualified mental health professional. (See Policy E-35.1 and E-35.2)

F. The automated "Health Summary for Classification" screen is updated as needed for each new arrival. (See Health Services Policy A-08.4)

G. Medications, appointments and referrals are scheduled as appropriate, based on the results of the health appraisal.
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Reference: ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practice 5-6A-4362, Health Screens (Mandatory)
ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practice 5-6A-4365, Health Appraisal (Mandatory)