USE OF FORCE PROCEDURES

PURPOSE: To provide a mechanism to assure inmates receive emergency treatment as necessary and physical assessment when Use of Force has been utilized.

POLICY:
I. When security is ready to commence the Use of Force, medical personnel will respond to the scene with an emergency response bag and AED. Emergent and/or urgent care including cardiopulmonary resuscitation will be provided at the scene as appropriate and safe for the situation.

II. All inmates involved in a Use of Force will be evaluated by licensed medical personnel as soon as possible after the Use of Force or during the next shift that medical staff are on site.

III. At a minimum, the evaluation of an inmate involved in a Use of Force will include the following:
   • Vital signs including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and respirations
   • The inmate being asked if he/she suffered any injuries related to the Use of Force
   • Adequate exposure of the patient for visual inspection for injuries
   • Documentation in the health record or EMR of all of the above including details of both positive and negative findings (e.g. “patient denies injury”, “no redness, bruising, or swelling noted at this time”, “old bruising yellow in color noted”, etc.)

IV. Licensed medical personnel will document in the health record that the Use of Force assessment was done and what forms were completed. Copies may be provided to others (e.g. security, Office of the Inspector General) as allowed by policy.

V. Medical personnel who are present during the Use of Force incident will complete a Witness Statement UOF-3 form. Personnel who conduct medical exams after the actual Use of Force will not be required to complete a witness statement.

VI. An employee will be provided emergent or urgent care and treatment for minor injuries sustained during Use of Force or other work-related activities. An employee will be referred to his/her personal physician for follow-up or treatment of other injuries and/or medical problems.

VII. A Form UOF-5 Employee/Inmate Injury Report will be completed and forwarded to security for each inmate and employee examined as a result of a Use of Force incident.

References:
TDCJ Use of Force Plan
Sections 494-007(c), 507.022(b) Texas Government Code
ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practices 5-ACI-6E-05
ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practices 5-ACI-3A-32
AD06.75 Treatment of Job Related Injuries