INMATE TRANSPORT AND TRANSFER

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines to assure that inmates are transported in a safe and timely manner for medical, mental health and dental clinic appointments both on and off site.

POLICY:

I. Each facility is required to develop written procedures to describe how inmates access services or are transported to services under the following applicable circumstances:

A. On-site care:
   1. General population
   2. Administrative segregation
   3. Lock down
   4. Other housing situations
   5. Disciplinary Segregation

B. Off-site care:
   1. General population
   2. Administrative segregation
   3. Lock down
   4. Other housing situations
   5. Disciplinary Segregation

II. The responsible physician or his/her designee provides instructions to transporting personnel regarding medication, therapy or other special treatment required by inmates during transit.

III. Patients who have a communicable infection should not be transported unless their medical condition requires transfer off the unit. When transport of an inmate with a communicable infection is deemed medically necessary, the following special precautions must be observed:

A. All patients must be dressed in a clean set of clothing prior to transport.

B. Patients requiring airborne precautions must wear a surgical mask any time they are outside a negative airflow room. Staff assigned to escort the patient must wear a respirator (i.e., N-95 mask) while in the presence of the patient.
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C. Patients requiring droplet precautions must wear a surgical mask any time they are outside their housing area. Staff assigned to escort the patient must wear a surgical mask when they are within six feet of the patient.

D. Patients requiring contact precautions will require measures to decrease the risk of transmission to others based on the source of the infection as follows:

1. Draining wounds must be covered with a clean, intact, impervious dressing.
2. Incontinent patients must wear a clean diaper.
3. Patients with a colostomy or urostomy with a communicable infection in the stool or urine must have a clean bag placed prior to transport.
4. If the organism has been cultured from the sputum, the patient must wear a surgical mask any time the patient is outside the assigned housing area.
5. Escort staff should wear protective equipment (i.e., gown, gloves, or mask) if contact with infectious material is anticipated.

IV. The inmate’s health information including any physical records not scanned shall accompany him/her upon transfer off the facility of assignment.

V. Inmates who require transfer to crisis management should be assessed for the need for special transport by the facility medical or mental health provider. After hours the on call provider must be contacted for the appropriate transport orders.

VI. Inmates who are inpatients in infirmaries and mental health facilities require special transportation arrangements. Refer to Correctional Managed Health Care (CMHC) Policy E-42.3, “Transportation of Infirmary and Inpatient Mental Health Inmates” for further information.

Reference: CMHC Policy B-14.10, Tuberculosis
CMHC Policy E-42.3, “Transportation of Infirmary and Inpatient Mental Health Inmates”
ACA Performance Standards & Expected Practice 5-6A-4348 (Revised August 2018), Referrals
ACA Performance Standards & Expected Practice 5-6A-4349 (Revised August 2018), Transportation