EXAMINATION OF INMATES BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS

PURPOSE: To describe the procedure for inmates requesting examinations by private practitioners.

POLICY: Inmates receive a full range of health care services from on-site health care providers. The use of private health care providers in the correctional setting will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to approval.

PROCESS:

I. An inmate seeking examination by a private practitioner shall submit a completed “Request and Consent for Examination by a Private Practitioner” form (Attachment A) to the facility health administrator (TTUHSC)/practice manager (UTMB), who shall forward the request to the facility health authority (TTUHSC)/management team (UTMB) and the facility administrator/warden. Upon approval of the facility health authority and warden, the examination will be scheduled to take place. Prior to the examination the facility health administrator (TTUHSC)/management team (UTMB) shall notify the private practitioner(s) that all fees and related costs for the examination are the responsibility of the inmate.

II. It is the responsibility of the facility health administrator (TTUHSC)/practice manager (UTMB) to maintain a file copy of the request and verify that the private practitioner’s license to practice medicine is valid.

III. The examination should occur between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). The facility health administrator/practice manager shall notify the warden of the date of the appointment.

IV. The private practitioner shall provide a copy of all findings and recommendations to the unit health administrator (TTUHSC)/practice manager (UTMB) who will forward a copy to the facility health authority/management team, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Division Director for Health Services and the medical director of the contracted provider. Neither TDCJ nor its contracted providers are bound by the findings or recommendations of private practitioners.

Reference: ACA Standard 4-4347