

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 3/8/2018	NUMBER: G-51.3 Page 1 of 2
	Replaces: 3/7/2017	
	Formulated: 8/87 Reviewed: 1/2022	
ADMISSION HEALTH APPRAISALS FOR INMATES WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES		

PURPOSE: To describe the procedures for admission health appraisals and referrals of inmates with physical disabilities to the Assistive Disability Services (ADS), Prosthetic and/or Orthotic Clinic.

POLICY:

I. Referral of inmates to ADS.

A. Inmates received at TDCJ intake facilities exhibiting any of the following conditions will be referred to ADS. Medical staff at intake facilities will notify the Office of Health Services Liaison (HSL) for assistance with the transfer of the inmate to a facility that can meet his/her needs. The following conditions constitute reason for referral.

1. Upper or lower limb amputation(s) **with or without** prosthesis
2. Spinal cord injury, neuromuscular or musculoskeletal condition, or any condition requiring an orthotic or wheelchair to perform independent gait or activities of daily living.
3. Closed or open head injury resulting in brain damage with any level of functional loss.
4. Significant or profound hearing loss, including loss that requires the use of American Sign Language for communicating
5. Legally or totally blind or progressive degenerative eye disorder, (e.g., diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, etc.)
6. Debilitating speech impairment
7. Stroke with significant neurological impairment
8. Peripheral plexus or nerve injury/disease resulting in significant neurological impairment
9. Severe venous stasis with chronic edema and/or ulceration
10. Severe burns or scarring producing significant physical impairment

Inmates unable to independently perform activities of daily living cannot be housed in general population and should be referred to the appropriate university's utilization review/management department for inpatient placement.

B. If during the health appraisal, an inmate exhibits one of the above identified conditions, the examining physician or mid-level practitioner will designate the inmate as an inmate with a physical disability and provide minimum diagnostic information specifying the disabling condition and the inmate's current or anticipated functional impairments. This information is to be noted on the Problems list in the electronic health record (EHR).

C. Inmates who are Vision, Hearing, or Speech Impaired

Upon completion of the admission health appraisal, the facility health administrator (TTUHSC)/practice manager (UTMB) or designee will e-mail the ADS Program Manager and HSL with the inmate's name, TDCJ number, current unit of assignment and diagnosis. HSL

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will work with ADS program staff and TDCJ Classification and Records Office to get the inmate assigned to a facility that can meet his/her needs. The ADS Program Manager may request the provider complete Attachment A of this policy if additional information is required. Interpreter services will be provided by ADS for inmates who communicate using American Sign Language.

D. Inmates with Physical Disabilities

Upon completion of the admission health appraisal, the facility health administrator (TTUHSC)/practice manager (UTMB) or designee will immediately e-mail the ADS Clinical Program Director at Jester III and HSL with the inmate’s name, TDCJ number, current unit of assignment and diagnosis. HSL will work with ADS program staff and TDCJ Classification and Records Office (CRO) to get the inmate assigned to a facility that can meet his/her needs. The ADS Clinical Program Director may request the provider complete Attachment B of this policy if additional information is required.

- E. Inmates with a spinal cord injury at T6 or above will be housed in a temperature-controlled (66 – 86 degrees) environment throughout the diagnostic process and at facility of assignment. Inmates will be transported in an air-conditioned vehicle when necessitated by elevated environmental temperatures.
- F. HSL and ADS will work together and advise CRO of inmates who are disabled and unable to complete the standard diagnostic process at an intake facility and should be transferred to a sheltered program to complete processing.
- G. All inmates identified as having a disability will be appropriately coded as outlined in the ADS Manual and this information will be forwarded to the ADS Program Manager.

Reference: Assistive Disability Program Manual
 ACA Standard 4-4375 Protheses and Orthodontic Devices (Non-Mandatory)
 ACA Standard 4-4404 Transfer (Non-Mandatory)
 CMHC Policy, “G-51.5 Certified American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter Services.”