



HEALTH CARE PHILOSOPHY

POLICY.

It is the policy of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office – Adult Jail (AJ) that all health care provided by the AJ's Medical Unit will be rendered with consideration for the inmate's privacy and with the inmate's consent. Biomedical, chemical or behavioral research will not be conducted using inmates of the facility. The AJ offers a health care system that supports efforts to provide adequate health care without demonstrating indifference to the health and safety of its inmates. This philosophy will assist the Sheriff's Office in responding to claims of constitutional violations.

PURPOSE.

The AJ system of health care will provide adequate medical, dental and behavioral/mental health care to inmates detained. This policy also establishes that examinations, treatment and other medical protocols may be provided only with the informed consent of the inmate, except in the case of emergency healthcare.

OREGON JAIL STANDARDS:

- G-101 Providing Adequate Health Care
- G-104 Informed Consent

REFERENCES:

- 45 CFR 164, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
HIPAA

DEFINITIONS.

Deliberate Indifference. The analysis is whether the healthcare provider knows of and disregards an excessive risk to inmate health and safety. The healthcare provider's deprivation of medical care, if aware of the risk, may be an 8th amendment violation.

Emergency Health Care. A case is considered serious when an inmate has a serious illness or injury which if left untreated could cause significant risk of permanent disability or death.

Serious Medical Need. A medical need of an inmate, which if left untreated would cause substantial and recurring pain and/or is a significant threat to the inmate's health so that daily activities are adversely affected.

SECTION A: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A-1.** All health care administered by the AJ Medical Unit will be provided with consideration to the inmate's privacy and consent. Treatments, physical examinations and specimen collections will be performed in privacy, unobserved by deputies unless the inmate poses a possible risk to the safety of the health care provider.

SECTION B: INFORMED CONSENT

- B-1.** Informed consent practices applicable in the general community are observed for all inmate examinations, treatments and procedures. Informed consent is received in writing (*Intake Medical Screening Form No. 501*) at the time of intake medical screening.
- B-2.** If the inmate is not competent, because of a physical or mental condition, to provide or refuse consent, another individual authorized under Oregon Law to provide consent may give consent.

SECTION C: RIGHT TO REFUSE TREATMENT

- C-1.** An inmate may, at any time, refuse medical evaluation or treatment. If possible, a signed *Refusal of Medical Attention Form No. 513* will be signed by the inmate and witnessed by two corrections deputies or one deputy and a facility nurse. The inmate will be informed of any consequences to his health as a result of refusal of medical treatment and that he may request and be given medical aid in the future.

FORMS USED:

- [Intake Medical Screening Form No. 501](#)
- Refusal of Medical Attention Form No. 513
- Healthcare Request Form No. 545