



HEALTH CARE COSTS

POLICY.

Inmates are responsible for the cost of their health care while incarcerated, in accordance with ORS 169.150 and 169.166. Medical Unit staff will provide necessary and equal health care services to all inmates regardless of their ability to pay for services. In an effort to reduce medical expenses, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office – Adult Jail (AJ) will pursue reimbursement for eligible medical costs.

PURPOSE.

This policy provides guidelines for staff when charging and collecting fees from inmates receiving health care services. Holding inmates accountable for some services received while incarcerated may contribute to their rehabilitation.

OREGON JAIL STANDARDS:

- G-103 Cost of Health Care Services
- G-202 Health Assessment
- G-214 ACA and Private Health Insurance

REFERENCES:

- ORS 169.150, Payment of Expense of Keeping Prisoners
- ORS 169.166, Liability For Costs of Medical Services

DEFINITIONS:

Health Care Staff. Any professional who is licensed or certified to provide health care services in Oregon, including physicians.

Funds. Includes, but is not limited to monies deposited with the Adult Jail for inmates housed in those facilities, and any other monies received by the jail or Sheriff's Office that are not required by law to be credited to other accounts.

PROCEDURES.

SECTION A: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

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Total Pages: 3

- A-1.** Medical Unit staff will provide reasonable and adequate health care services to all inmates regardless of their ability to pay for services.

SECTION B: REQUEST FOR HEALTH CARE

- B-1.** All inmates requesting health care services are subject to fees. Inmates will be charged when submitting a Health Care Request for medications, medical items, or during an emergency situation. Inmates are not charged for Behavioral Health requests.
- B-2.** The inmate who requests health care services while incarcerated may be charged a nominal fee. However, necessary services will not be denied due to the inability to pay.
- B-3.** Inmates receiving health care services will sign one of the below listed forms:
- a. *Health Care Request Form No. 545*; when requesting to see or receive services/treatment from facility Medical Unit staff.
 - b. *Medical Services Rendered Form No. 546*; when receiving health care services (or other treatment) from Medical Unit staff.

SECTION C: ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH CARE COSTS

- C-1.** Funds placed on an inmate's commissary account will be used to pay for all or part of the medical charges. Staff will deduct the inmate's account after the inmate receives the health care service.
- C-2.** If the inmate is indigent, health care services will be charged to the inmate's account; a negative balance will be kept, and may be deducted from any future money placed on the account. This includes any future incarcerations.
- C-3.** When funds are removed from an inmate's account for health care services, inmates shall receive a receipt for services.
- C-4.** Inmates will not be charged fees for intake screenings, and 14-day health assessments, periodic health assessments, or exams required by jail policy and procedures.
- C-5.** Jail staff may take additional steps to legally collect any unpaid funds, if inmates are released from custody with unpaid medical charges.
- C-6.** Funds for health care costs will be deposited into the Sheriff's Office Revenue Account. The Corrections Captain will review the jail's commissary accounts on a monthly basis.
- C-7.** Inmates will assume financial responsibility for elective procedures with personal physicians in accordance with Policy CD 10-14, *Private Medical/Mental Health Consultation*.

SECTION D: ACA AND PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

- D-1.** An inmate's personal health insurance may be charged for the provision of any health care services. For pre-trial inmates, all medical services not provided by the jail must first be billed to the inmate's private insurance pursuant to ORS 169.166. If the medical provider has not been paid within 45 days, the medical provider may bill the AJ. The AJ may seek reimbursement for the medical costs provided in jail from the inmate's private insurance to help reduce medical costs.
- D-2.** OHP will suspend any actively enrolled members upon incarceration; however, OHP may be reinstated for emergent circumstances for medically risky inmates. Jail medical staff will seek reimbursement for hospital charges when the inmate is admitted to in-patient hospital care for more than 24 hours.
- D-3.** Inmates who are not covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) also known as the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will be offered a chance to enroll while incarcerated.
- The inmate will be instructed to send an Inmate Message Form No. 103 to request an application for OHP.
 - An application will be provided for the inmate.
 - After completion, the inmate will return the application to a deputy.
 - OHP trained jail staff will check the application for completeness and start the enrollment process. If the application is incomplete, it will be returned to the inmate to be completed, then returned back to staff.
 - When the inmate is released from custody the enrollment process will be completed. (OHP will not enroll someone who is incarcerated.)
 - The application will be scanned into the inmate's JMS file, and notes regarding the process will be made in JMS Attachments.

SECTION E: FEE SCHEDULES

- E-1.** Established fee schedules for health care services are approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The medical fee schedule may be changed on a yearly basis and approved by the BOCC. The current fee schedule is listed on the *Health Care Request Form No. 545*.
- E-2.** Medical Unit staff will inform the inmate that he will be charged a fee for health care services as set out on the *Health Care Request Form No. 545*.
- E-3.** When inmates are processed into the facility, they receive written notification of their responsibility to pay for health care services received on the *Intake Medical Screening Form No. 501*.
- E-4.** Over-the-counter medication fees are posted on the medication cart and are visible at the time of purchase. Fees for over-the-counter medications are deducted at the time of purchase from the inmate's account. Over-the-counter medication will be charged to the inmates' account regardless of their ability to pay.

SECTION F: GRIEVANCES

F-1. Inmates will follow procedures set out in the [Inmate Grievance Policy No. CD-6-7](#), to challenge health care service charges deducted from their account.

FORMS USED:

- Inmate Message Form No. 103
- [Intake Medical Screening Form No. 501](#)
- Health Care Request Form No. 545
- Medical Services Rendered Form No. 546