



## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

### **POLICY.**

It is the policy of the Deschutes County Adult Jail (DCAJ) and Work Center (WC) that any inmate who suffers a serious, life-threatening injury or illness will receive immediate medical care.

### **PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines for the emergency care of inmates under the supervision of DCAJ and WC.

### **OREGON JAIL STANDARDS:**

- G-203 Emergency Response

### **PROCEDURES.**

- A-1.** Twenty-four hour emergency care is available for acute medical and psychiatric conditions through St. Charles Medical Center. Emergency dental care is available through local dental providers (licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Oregon) or the on-call dentist through St. Charles Emergency Room. Ambulance and EMT service is provided by the City of Bend Fire Department. Emergency Medical Care is the level of care required when a condition is perceived to be imminently life-threatening, is beyond the care of the Facility Nurse, or cannot be handled by telephone consultation with a doctor. Emergencies must be dealt with effectively and rapidly. Corrections deputies on duty in DCAJ will give initial first aid care. All deputies on duty will be Health Trained and be current with CPR and First Aid training.
- A-2.** Emergency medical conditions will include the following:
- a. Persons who are unconscious, or who appear to have possible head injuries.
  - b. Persons who are suffering convulsions or seizures.
  - c. Persons who have serious lacerations, puncture wounds, human or animal bites, or significant external bleeding.
  - d. Persons who have obvious swelling, deformities, fractures, or discoloration indicating possible internal injuries or fractures.
  - e. Persons who have signs of head, neck, spine or other severe injury or trauma.
  - f. Persons who have signs of internal bleeding.

- g. Persons complaining of severe abdominal pain.
  - h. Persons who appear to be severely confused or disoriented.
  - i. A person whose blood alcohol level exceeds .30%, or who is exhibiting symptoms of delirium tremens, or who is exhibiting symptoms of, "Severe alcohol withdrawal."
  - j. Pregnant women in labor.
  - k. Pregnant women with symptoms of vaginal bleeding, possible ruptured membranes, or severe headaches associated with blurred vision or cramping
  - l. Persons having severe difficulty breathing.
  - m. Persons having chest pain.
  - n. Persons experiencing severe pain.
  - o. Persons who attempt, or speak of attempting, suicide.
  - p. Persons with severe burns.
  - q. Persons with any other medical problem which appears to require immediate medical care and/or is life-threatening.
  - r. Persons needing CPR.
  - s. Persons who have ingested a large amount of alcohol or drugs.
  - t. Persons who have placed drugs or medication in any body cavity.
- A-3.** Corrections deputies on duty should be generally aware of the health of lodged inmates. It is important that corrections deputies appreciate that a medical emergency can occur at any time. Deputies must be able to respond appropriately and with all due speed.
- A-4.** In the event an emergency medical condition or injury is presented, corrections deputies on duty will follow this Emergency Medical Plan:
- a. Notify the Control Center via radio to obtain assistance from the Facility Nurse.
  - b. Notify the shift supervisor.
  - c. The Health Trained Officer will stay with the inmate and follow the instructions of the Facility Nurse.
  - d. If the Facility Nurse is not on duty, then an EMT will be summoned and will direct further emergency medical responses.
  - e. If the Health Trained Officer is uncertain whether a medical emergency situation exists, contact will be made with a Facility Nurse or Emergency Department Personnel for advice.
  - f. An incident report will be prepared for all apparent or confirmed medical emergencies. Reports should include the response to the health care emergency, including the names of staff involved, times and a complete narrative of the circumstances. Copies will be forwarded to the Facility Nurse for review.
- A-5.** When an inmate must be transferred for emergency medical purposes, a certified corrections deputy will accompany the inmate and all security procedures will be followed.