

State of Iowa Department of Corrections

Policy and Procedures

Policy Number: HSP-104

Applicability: Institutions

Policy Code: Public Access

Iowa Code Reference: N/A

Chapter 6: HEALTH SERVICES

Sub Chapter: ADMINISTRATION

Related DOC Policies: IO-SC-15, IO-SC-18

Administrative Code Reference: N/A

Subject: SECURITY INTERFACE

ACA Standards: 5-ACI-3A-20, 5-ACI-3A-21

PREA Standards: 115.15(a)

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Authority:

1. PURPOSE

To facilitate responsiveness to correctional security needs in the Iowa Department of Corrections without compromise of professional and ethical precepts of health professionals.

2. POLICY

It is the policy of the IDOC Health Services to provide written procedures to ensure that security issues are being addressed appropriately as they relate to safety, security and healthcare needs of patients.

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- A. Needles and "Sharps"
- B. Body Cavity Searches
- C. Strip Searches

3. DEFINITIONS - See IDOC Policy AD-GA-16 for Definitions.

4. PROCEDURE

A. Needles and "Sharps"

Each institution is to have written procedure which addresses the need to secure and properly dispose of needles and "sharps" (e.g., knife blades) used in the delivery of health services. This same procedure must provide for monitoring and securing those medical and dental instruments commonly recognized as posing a security risk if in the possession of a patient. See IDOC Policy **IO-SC-15**, *Tool Control*, for additional procedures and instructions.

B. Body Cavity Searches

1. Body cavity searches will only be done by a licensed medical practitioner at the request of the warden or his/her designee. The risk for tissue damage and possible absorption of concealed drugs are among the health reasons for conducting a physical exam by a medical provider. A body cavity search shall not be conducted in the event the patient is resistant and while being restrained. The data indicating the need for a body cavity search is to be reviewed with the institution duty officer and documented in the medical record by the participating licensed medical practitioner. See IDOC Policy **IO-SC-18**, *Searches*, for additional procedures and instructions.
 2. A medical practitioner will conduct a physical examination in the health services area if a strip search of the patient reveals evidence supporting the need for additional examination. Prior to the physical examination, the patient must sign a consent form. If the patient verbalizes resistance to the procedure, the procedure is stopped and the Warden/designee will be contacted to decide if a transfer of the patient to the Emergency Room is necessary or if the patient is to be administratively segregated until the threat of the contraband is no longer a threat.
 3. Nursing staff will not conduct body cavity searches.
 4. Visual inspections of body cavities may be authorized by the Warden on a reasonable belief that the patient is carrying contraband or other prohibited material on or in the body. Such an inspection shall be conducted in privacy by a designated qualified health practitioner. (LPN, RN, PA, NP, Physician)
- PREA 115.5(a)**

C. Strip Searches

Medical personnel do not participate in strip searches as there is no relationship between this practice and medical needs.