

# State of Iowa Department of Corrections

## Policy and Procedures

Policy Number: HSP-302  
Applicability: DOC, CBC  
Policy Code: Public Access  
Iowa Code Reference: 135.22  
Chapter 6: Health Services  
Sub Chapter: Health Record  
Related DOC Policies: AD-GA-06  
Administrative Code Reference: Chapter 641-21.1  
Subject: Notification for Reportable Injuries  
ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6C-02  
Responsibility: Dr. Jerome Greenfield  
Effective Date: July 2020  
Authority:

### 1. PURPOSE

To ensure State agencies and significant others are notified in a timely manner in the event of a serious illness or injury to a patient in the custody of the Iowa Department of Corrections.

### 2. POLICY

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC) to ensure timely notification as reportable to State agencies and significant others in the event of serious illness or injury.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

A. Brain injury - means the occurrence of injury to the head not primarily related to a degenerative disease or aging process that is documented in a medical record with one or more of the following conditions attributed to the head injury:

1. An observed or self-reported decreased level of consciousness.
  2. Amnesia.
  3. A skull fracture.
  4. An objective neurological or neuropsychological abnormality.
  5. A diagnosed intracranial lesion.
- B. Spinal cord injury - means the occurrence of an acute traumatic lesion of neural elements in the spinal cord including the spinal cord and cauda equine, resulting in temporary or permanent sensory deficit, motor deficit, or bladder or bowel dysfunction.
- C. Reportable case - means a person who is admitted or transferred to a hospital with a diagnosis of acute, traumatic brain or spinal cord injury; or, a person who is pronounced dead in the emergency department of a hospital with an acute, traumatic brain or spinal cord injury.
- D. Acute injury - means an injury for which a person has been continuously hospitalized since recognition of that injury.
- E. See IDOC Policy **AD-GA-16** for additional Definitions.

#### **4. PROCEDURES**

A. Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Report

1. **Chapter 641-21.1 of the Iowa Code** requires hospitals and licensed medical providers to report all brain and spinal cord injuries to the Central Registry for Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries in the Iowa Department of Public Health. **Section 135.22** of the Iowa Administrative Code describes the Central Registry for Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries. These conditions are usually diagnosed at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics upon referral from the IDOC.
2. Chronic or acute intervertebral disc disorders which are not due to a specific traumatic event are not reportable. Hemiplegia and paralytic syndromes attributable to degenerative cerebrovascular diseases are not reportable.

3. Minor brain injuries which do not result in loss of consciousness or amnesia, and have no accompanying cognitive, motor or affective dysfunction are not reported.
- B. In the event of serious illness or injury to the patient, the Warden/designee will ensure that the immediate family is contacted.