

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**Operations Division**  
**Health Services Section Policy and Procedure #P-A-02**

**SUBJECT:** RESPONSIBLE HEALTH AUTHORITY

**POLICY:** The Health Services Administrator is designated as the Health Authority of the Oregon Department of Corrections. The Administrator is responsible for advising the Director of Oregon Department of Corrections on all inmate health related matters and is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing the mission, vision, values, policies and operations of Health Services. The Administrator may delegate authority throughout Health Services to deliver community standard care consistent with applicable rules and standards and efficient use of resources.

**REFERENCE:** OAR 291-124-015  
NCCHC Standard P-A-02

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. The Health Services Administrator is responsible for all decisions regarding operational, fiscal, policy and resource matters concerning the delivery of health care. The Medical Director has final authority for all clinical practice decisions requiring medical judgments.
- B. The Health Services Assistant Administrator of Behavioral Health Services is delegated authority to plan, direct, and implement programs and makes recommendations regarding operational matters concerning the delivery of mental health services. The Chief Psychiatrist is delegated final authority by the Health Services Administrator for decisions requiring mental health clinical judgment.
- C. The Health Services Assistant Administrator for Clinical Services is delegated authority to plan, direct and implement programs and makes recommendations regarding institution operational matters, the organization and delivery of on-site health care, and the interdisciplinary coordination of services. The AA/CS is responsible for ensuring that the professional practices of the nursing personnel meet or exceed licensing and professional requirements and serves as the liaison between the Medical Services Managers and the Health Services Administrator regarding administrative issues.
- D. The Health Services Assistant Administrator for Pharmacy & Medical Stores is delegated authority to plan, direct and implement programs and makes recommendations regarding the organization and implementation of pharmaceutical care delivery systems and the selection, purchase and distribution of medical supplies and equipment. The Licensed "Pharmacists' in Charge" (PIC's) have delegated authority from the Medical Director for professional oversight of pharmaceutical dispensing operations and patient consultation.

## Responsible Health Authority

- E. The Health Services Assistant Administrator for Budget is delegated authority to plan, direct and implement programs and makes recommendations regarding organizational development, fiscal accountability, information technology and staff training, as well as, serving as liaison between the Health Services Administrator and administrative staff.
- F. The Dental Program Director (a dentist licensed to practice in Oregon) is delegated authority to plan, direct and implement programs and makes recommendations for the appropriate dental care of inmates, consistent with community standards.
- G. The Medical Services Manager (MSM) is the delegated, on site, medical operations authority and may utilize all the resources at his/her disposal to see that community standard care is provided consistent with applicable rules and standards and the efficient use of resources. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is the delegated on site authority in all clinical matters requiring medical judgment. The Mental Health Program Manager is the delegated, on site, authority for operational and resource matters for mental health programs.
- H. Recommendations and decisions about all medical care, tests and treatments, are reviewed and approved according to Policy and Procedure #P-A-02.1, Level of Therapeutic Care Provided by Oregon Department of Corrections, Health Services Section.
- I. Disparity of opinion between the Medical Services Manager and the Chief Medical Officer is addressed by engaging in continued discussion directed towards understanding and accommodating both viewpoints. Where disparity of opinion cannot be resolved locally in this manner, the issue is referred to the Health Services Assistant Administrator for Clinical Services and the Health Services Administrator for resolution.
- J. Disparity of opinion between the Medical Services Manager and, the Mental Health Program Manager, is addressed by engaging in continued discussion directed toward understanding and accommodating differing points of view. Where disparity of opinion cannot be resolved locally in this manner the issue is referred to the Health Services Assistant Administrator for Behavioral Health Services and the Health Services Administrator for resolution.
- K. Each permanent, temporary and contracted member of the Health Services staff will be informed of this policy and these lines of authority and accountability as part of their initial introduction to Health Services through their orientation.

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Review date: October 2008

Supersedes P&P dated: March 2008