

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS
CORRECTIONS SERVICES**

**Health Care Policy
No. HCP34**



20 June 2020

**INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES / HEALTH CARE POLICIES
Health Care Policy – Special Services and Accommodations
Chronic Care/Special Needs**

1. **AUTHORITY:** The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, La. R.S. 36:404.
2. **REFERENCES:** La. R.S. 15:831; 5-ACI-4B-31 "Step Down Programs," 5-ACI-6A-03 "Clinical Services," 5-ACI-6A-07 "Treatment Plan," 5-ACI-6A-18 "Chronic Care," 5-ACI-6C-06 "Special Needs," 5-ACI-6C-07 "Special Needs," "Glossary" (ACI 5th ed. 2019) (Adult Correctional Institutions); and Department Regulation Nos. AM-D-5 "Offender Medical Records," HCP2 "Health Authority," HCP7 "Pharmaceuticals," HCP13 "Access to Care and Clinical Services," HCP15 "Continuity of Care," HCP19 "Emergency Care," HCP20 "Infirmarium Care," HCP27 "Mental Health Program," HCP29 "Transfer of Severely Mentally Ill and/or Severely Developmentally Delayed Offenders."
3. **PURPOSE:** This regulation is to ensure the provision adequate and reasonable health and mental health care to, and the monitoring of, offenders with chronic illness(es) and/or special needs.
4. **APPLICABILITY:** Deputy Secretary, Chief of Operations, Department's Medical/Mental Health Director, Regional Wardens, Wardens, Facility Health Authorities, Health Care Professionals/Providers, and Health Care/Health Care-Trained Staff. Each Warden is responsible for ensuring appropriate unit written policies and procedures are in place to comply with the provisions of this regulation.
5. **POLICY:** The Secretary's policy is each facility shall have a well-coordinated plan of care for offenders diagnosed with chronic illness(es) and/or special needs.
6. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - A. **Chronic Care:** Health care services provided over a long period of time to offenders with long-term health conditions or illnesses or chronic illnesses. Chronic care usually includes an initial assessment, treatment, and periodic monitoring to manage the offender's condition.

- B. Chronic Illness:** A disease process or condition which persists over an extended period of time, examples of which may include, but are not limited to: Diabetes, hypertension, asthma, HIV, seizures, a mental illness diagnosis, etc.
- C. Facility:** A place, institution, building (or part thereof), set of buildings, or area (whether or not enclosing a building or set of buildings) which is used for the lawful custody and/or treatment of individuals and includes staff and services, as well as the building and grounds.
- D. Health Authority:** The health administrator responsible for the provision of health care services at a facility or system of facilities.
- E. Health Care Practitioners/Providers:** Clinicians trained to diagnose and to treat patients, for example, physicians, dentists, psychologists, licensed professional counselors, licensed social workers, podiatrists, optometrists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.
- F. Health Care Professionals:** Staff who perform clinical duties or provide clinical services, such as health care practitioners/providers, nurses, licensed professional counselors, social workers, and emergency medical technicians, in accordance with each health care professional's scope of training and applicable licensing, registration, certification, and regulatory requirements.
- G. Health Care/Health Care Services:** A system of preventative and therapeutic services which provide for the physical and/or mental well-being of a population. "Health care" includes, but is not limited to: Medical services, dental services, behavioral health services, nursing services, pharmaceutical services, personal hygiene, dietary services, and environmental conditions.
- H. Mental Illness:** A psychiatric illness or disease expressed primarily through abnormalities of thought, feeling, and behavior, which psychiatric illness or disease produces either distress and/or impaired function.
- I. Responsible Physician:** An individual licensed to practice medicine who provides health care services to the offender population and/or the physician at a facility with final responsibility for decisions related to medical judgments.
- J. Special Needs:** A mental and/or physical condition which requires accommodations or arrangements different from those which a general

population offender normally would receive. Offenders with special needs may include, but are not limited to, the emotionally disturbed, developmentally disabled, mentally ill, physically handicapped, chronically ill, the disabled or infirm, and the drug or alcohol addicted.

7. PROCEDURES:

- A. Chronic care clinics are a means for offenders with ongoing medical needs to be tracked and treated by a health care provider at clinically appropriate intervals.
- B. Each facility's medical director, health authority, and Warden shall collaborate and together shall develop a plan, establish protocols, and conduct chronic care clinics for the management of offenders with chronic illnesses.
- C. Chronic care clinics, at a minimum, shall include care for: hypertension; diabetes; congestive heart failure; human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); hyperlipidemia, and asthma/COPD. In addition, there shall be a protocol for offenders on Coumadin therapy.
- D. Each facility's chronic care plan and protocols shall provide for the following:
 - 1) Medication monitoring and administration;
 - 2) Laboratory testing;
 - 3) Frequency of follow-up in the chronic care clinic;
 - 4) Health record forms;
 - 5) Frequency of specialist consultation and review.
- E. Health care practitioners seeing offender patients in a chronic care clinic shall utilize a Subjective and Objective Assessment Plan ("SOAP") format for documentation.
- F. A consultation shall be initiated between the facility and appropriate program administrators or designees and the responsible physician or designee prior to taking action regarding offenders with special needs.
- G. When immediate action is required, consultation to review the appropriateness of the action occurs as soon as possible, but no later than

72 hours. Examples include, without limitation: housing assignments; program assignments; disciplinary measures, or transfers to other facilities.

s/James M. Le Blanc
Secretary

This policy supersedes HC Policy No. HC-11 dated 15 April 2011.