

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: Care and Treatment of Patient -
Dental Services

POLICY # TX V-3

PAGE 1 of 2

SUBJECT: Dental Exams & Assessments

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 2012

SUPERCEDES DATE: May 2007

References

Related ACA Standards

**4th Edition Standards for Adult Correctional
Institutions 4-4360, 4-4365**

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for dental exams and assessments.

POLICY

All inmates will have a dental screening.

PROCEDURE

I. DENTAL ASSESSMENT AND SCREENING

- A. Within seven (7) days of admission:
 - 1. All available inmates will have an oral health assessment.
 - 2. This assessment will be accomplished by qualified healthcare personnel and documented in the medical record.
- B. Within Thirty (30) days of admission:
 - 1. All available inmates will have a dental screening by licensed dental personnel.
 - 2. At the screening appointment any gross oral pathology needing immediate care will be identified, the inmate will be advised how to access dental care, and oral hygiene instructions will be provided.
 - 3. This screening is to include:
 - Documentation of the medical/dental history
 - cursory screening of hard and soft tissues
 - Complete charting of existing restorations, missing teeth, caries, and other oral pathology
 - Oral cancer screening
 - Documentation of any head and neck trauma
 - Documentation of any existing oral prosthesis
 - Assignment of dental grade
 - Signature and date by the screening dentist
 - 4. When deemed necessary by the dentist, radiographs may be taken.
 - 5. All information is to be thoroughly documented and recorded on the Dental Health Record, DC-388 and DC-389.
 - 6. Processors shall be advised of their overall dental health status in general terms.

II. TREATMENT AT HOUSING UNIT

Once the inmate arrives at the unit of assignment, completes a sick call request, and presents for a scheduled appointment, the responsible dentist shall:

- 1. Review and document the medical/dental history;
- 2. Perform an examination of hard and soft tissues
- 3. Update charting as necessary (back of DC-388)
- 4. Obtain the necessary radiographs, and
- 5. Develop a treatment plan and priority of care based on the appropriate level of care indicated in policy TX V-6.

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III. DENTAL GRADES ASSESSMENT

After the initial screening or an examination by the responsible dentist, each inmate will be placed in an appropriate dental grade. Grades are assigned without regard to sentence length or time remaining before release. The dental grade will be determined by the most significant finding using the following criteria:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Overall Function</u>	<u>Description</u>
D1	Good	0-6 missing teeth (replacements count as teeth present) 0-2 restorations indicated 0 extractions indicated None to slight calculus Type I Periodontitis Good masticatory efficiency
D2	Fair	7-10 missing teeth 3-5 restorations indicated 1-2 extractions indicated Moderate to heavy calculus Inflamed soft tissue Type II and III Periodontitis Fair masticatory efficiency
D3	Poor	11 or more missing teeth 6 or more restorations indicated 3 or more extractions indicated Highly inflamed soft tissue Type IV Periodontitis Poor masticatory efficiency
D4	Severe/Serious Limitations	Facial bone fractures or other trauma Severe cellulitis, swelling, or infection Malignant or aggressive neoplasia



3/31/12

SOR: Dental Committee

Paula Y. Smith, MD, Director of Health Services

Date