



Procedures

Table of contents

1. Introduction 1

2. Definitions 2

3. Medical costs 2

4. Dental examinations and treatment 3

5. Optical examinations and optical aids 3

6. Hearing tests 3

7. Replacement of health items 3

8. Private consultations for legal or compensation purposes 3

9. Private consultations for health matters 4

10. Orthopaedic appliances 4

11. Approved 4

12. Policy sponsor 4

13. Contact person 5

14. Amendment history 5

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of these procedures is to inform prisoners and custodial staff of the health services available to prisoners while in prison.
- 1.2 Health Care is the sum of all actions, preventative and therapeutic, taken to meet the physical, mental and special needs of a person to ensure their well-being. Health care includes medical, dental, mental health, dietetics, and includes health education and health promotion.
- 1.3 In accordance with the [Health Insurance Act 1973](#), people are not eligible for a Medicare benefit for services rendered by, or on behalf of, or under an arrangement with the State government (among others). Therefore, Medicare benefits are not payable in respect of health services provided to prisoners by the State government.
- 1.4 Primary health care shall be available in prisons, with secondary and tertiary care generally provided in community health facilities, where necessary.
- 1.5 A range of culturally appropriate male and female health education and promotion specific to a prisoner's identified medical condition is available. Health education and promotion available to prisoners includes information, education, promotion, individual counselling, screening and referral.
- 1.6 Prisoners may be permitted to have medical aids brought into prison with them or delivered at the gate in their possession in prison in accordance with [Policy Directive 42 - Prisoner Property](#).

2. Definitions

Cosmetic procedures	Procedures which alter or enhance a person's appearance towards some aesthetic ideal. Also known as 'aesthetic procedures'.
Designated Superintendent	The Superintendent as defined in s 36 of the Prisons Act 1981 and includes any reference to the position responsible for the management of a private prison under Part IIIA of the Prisons Act 1981 .
Orthopaedic appliances	Prostheses and orthoses.
Orthosis/orthotic	A special prescribed device that serves to support, assist the function of, or prevent movement in a body part such as a foot, limb or the spine. Types of orthoses include braces, splints, corsets, collars, and special shoes or shoe inserts specifically manufactured for the alleviation of medical conditions and temporary or permanent disabilities.
Primary health care	The first point of consultation within the health profession.
Prostheses	An artificial substitute for a missing body part, such as an artificial limb.
Secondary health care	Health services provided by medical specialists and other health professionals who generally do not have first contact with patients.
Tertiary health care	Specialised consultative health care, usually for inpatients and on referral from a primary or secondary health professional in a facility that has personnel and facilities for advanced medical investigation and treatment.

3. Medical costs

- 3.1** Prisoners will be provided with oral, optical and audiological services consistent with the Western Australian (WA) Public Health System where there is a genuine clinically assessed need for treatment.
- 3.2** Any additional medical costs not paid for or supplied through the WA Public Health System must be paid for by the prisoner. This also includes ancillary health services and supplies not borne by the public health system.
- 3.3** Items not provided by the Department of Corrective Services includes (but is not limited to):
- Optical care / aids and accessories (other than basic frames and single vision lenses)
 - Dental care (refer [Section 4](#))
 - Hearing aids
 - Podiatry items including orthotics and specialist footwear

3.4 In the event a prisoner requests the purchase of additional medical items (such as hearing aids and glasses) not provided through the WA Public Health system, the prisoner must bear all costs associated with obtaining the item, in accordance with these procedures. This may include private consultation fees, the cost of the item, procedural costs, staff time and transport costs.

4. Dental examinations and treatment

4.1 Prisoners are eligible for routine dental examinations and treatment of a type available to the general public through the WA Public Health System. Prosthetic and / or orthodontic treatment (including, but not limited to cosmetic treatment, crowns bridges and wires and cost of staff time incurred) are available at the prisoner's own expense.

5. Optical examinations and optical aids

5.1 Prisoners are eligible for routine optical examinations of a type available to the general public from the WA Public Health System. Optical care / aids and accessories must be paid for and purchased by the prisoner (other than basic frames with single vision lenses).

5.2 Prisoners will not be provided with contact lenses (refer [Section 3.3](#) above).

5.3 If a prisoner is permitted to have contact lenses in prison (refer [Policy Directive 42 – Prisoner Property](#)), it is the prisoner's responsibility to maintain the cost and care of their contact lenses including the cost of cleansing solutions. Contact lens solution can be purchased through the prison canteen.

6. Hearing tests

6.1 Prisoners are eligible for routine hearing tests of a type available to the general public through the WA public health system.

6.2 Hearing aid batteries can be purchased through the prison canteen.

7. Replacement of health items

7.1 Prisoners are required to bear the cost of replacement, loss or damage to items (ie hearing aids, glasses, dentures).

8. Private consultations for legal or compensation purposes

8.1 Prisoners may request a permit for absence (refer [Policy Directive 9 – Permits for Absence](#)) for an external private health consultation for legal or compensation purposes through the Designated Superintendent.

8.2 Requests must be made in writing by the prisoner's legal representative to the Designated Superintendent, detailing all relevant considerations. Designated Superintendents are to forward requests to the Director, Security and Response Services to enable a decision to be made by Adult Justice Services regarding the prisoner's absence from prison for this purpose.

8.3 If approved in accordance with Section 8.2 above, payment for private health consultations for legal or compensation purposes is to be arranged by a suitable representative in the community (eg friend, relative or advocate). Upon advice from Health Services, the prisoner shall be required to meet the cost of a referral to the

private health service provider, or initial consultation. In addition, the Designated Superintendent may require the prisoner to meet the cost of the escort and officer supervision for all appointments.

9. Private consultations for medical reasons

- 9.1** Prisoners may request a permit for absence (refer [Policy Directive 9 – Permits for Absence](#)) for an external private health consultation. Approval for the private health consultation will be considered by the Director or Deputy Director Health Services (DHS / DDHS) in consultation with the Designated Superintendent, where clinical services are not reasonably available in the Public Health system, provided the prisoner can meet the costs, there are clinical grounds for granting the application and, in accordance with [Policy Directive 9 – Permits for Absence](#).
- 9.2** Cosmetic procedures are unlikely to be approved.
- 9.3** Health Services will make all necessary arrangements for the appointment with the private health service provider.
- 9.4** Payment for private health consultations is to be arranged by a suitable representative in the community (eg friend, relative or advocate). Upon advice from Health Services, the prisoner may be required to meet the cost of a referral to the private health service provider, or initial consultation. In addition, the Designated Superintendent may require the prisoner to meet the cost of the escort and officer supervision for all appointments.

10. Orthopaedic appliances

- 10.1** Prisoners with disabilities or those either permanently or temporarily incapacitated as a result of an illness, injury or congenital condition may require specialised medical equipment / appliances or surgical footwear.
- 10.2** Following an appropriate assessment, Health Services may provide these items where they would be available for free in the public health system, following approval by the DHS / DDHS. If the items are not free within the public health system then the prisoner is required to pay for the item by completing a C63 form for costs. The prisoner is required to demonstrate that they have the ability to pay for the item, before the item is ordered.
- 10.3** Items shall only be ordered where it is considered beneficial to the prisoner as clinically assessed by Health Services.

11. Approved

Commissioner or delegated authority as per PD 16:

Signature:



Date: 8 September 2014

12. Policy sponsor

Deputy Commissioner Adult Justice Services

13. Contact person

The following persons may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:

Principal Operational Policy Officer

14. Amendment history

Version	Approved	Effective from
1. First published	Commissioner	8 September 2014