



CORRECTIONS MEDICINE
Forensic Information and Body Cavity Inspection
ACA Standard: 4 ALDF – 2C – 05

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Policy Number:
CM – 68

- I. **PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for the participation of healthcare staff in the collection of forensic information and inspection of body cavities.

- II. **POLICY:** Corrections Medicine staff and contracted medical staff are prohibited from participating in the collection of forensic information and performing body cavity inspections on incarcerated individuals for any purpose other than medical reasons.

- III. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All staff working in the Corrections Medicine program are responsible for the content of and adherence to this policy and procedure.

- IV. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - **Forensic Information** — physical or psychological data or information collected from an inmate that may be used against him/her in disciplinary or legal proceedings (e.g. DNA testing).

 - **Body Cavity Inspection** — a visual, manual or instrument internal inspection of body cavities for contraband (prohibited materials) such as illegal drugs, money, jewelry, or weapons. This type of inspection/search is far more invasive than the standard strip search performed at the time of incarceration in the jail.

- V. **PROCEDURE:**
 - 1. Corrections Medicine staff are responsible for therapeutic medical care for individuals incarcerated in the Buzz Westfall Justice Center and shall not be involved in the collection of forensic evidence related to their legal situation.

 - 2. If a body cavity inspection is to be performed, the patient shall be taken to a healthcare facility to have the inspection performed by outside health professionals who are not in a direct care relationship with the patient.

 - 3. Corrections Medicine staff may be involved in a body cavity inspection under the following conditions:
 - a. when complying with state laws that require blood samples from patients, as long as the patient has consented to the procedure; or

 - b. when a physician orders a body cavity search, blood test, or urine sample for medical purposes; or

 - c. when conducting patient-specific, court ordered laboratory tests or radiology procedures with the consent of the patient.

4. Medical staff shall not be involved in any punitive action taken against the patient as a result of the patient's non-participation in the collection process.
5. Appropriate documentation shall be made in the patient's electronic medical record with each patient encounter.

VI. **REFERENCES:**

American Correctional Association; Performance-Based Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities, fourth edition; 2004; Standard 4-ALDF-4D-17 and 4-ALDF-2C-05

National Commission on Correctional Health Care; Standards for Health Services in Jails, Standard J-I-03; 2018