



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS**

**APPLICABILITY: All Authorized Personnel**

**POLICY NUMBER: 2102**

**EFFECTIVE: 2/18/2016  
REVISED: 11/14/2018  
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REVIEWED: 2/21/2024**

**TITLE: Medical Autonomy  
NCCHC: J-A-03  
ACA: 4-ALDF-4D-02**

**AUTHORIZED BY: SHANE T. DADY**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZED BY: WILLIAM K. JOHNJULIO, MD**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections (ACBOC) Health Care Services to ensure that clinical decisions and actions regarding health care provided to incarcerated individuals meet their serious medical and mental health needs and are the sole responsibility of qualified health care professionals.

**PURPOSE**

To ensure that all clinical decisions and actions regarding health care provided to patients are the sole responsibility of the qualified health care professional and are not compromised for security reasons.

## **PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

### **NCCHC/ACA:**

1. Clinical decisions are determined by qualified healthcare professionals and implemented in an effective and safe manner.
2. Administrative decisions are coordinated, if necessary, with clinical needs so that patient care is not jeopardized.
3. The health authority arranges for the availability of healthcare services: the responsible clinician determines what services are needed; the official responsible for the facility provides the administrative support for making the services accessible to inmates.
4. Custody staff supports the implementation of clinical decisions.
5. Health staff recognizes and follow security regulations.

### **PROCEDURAL DETAILS**

1. The medical director has final responsibility for making and approving all clinical decisions regarding the care provided to patients in the institution.
2. The deputy warden for health services (DWHS) works in conjunction with the warden to implement procedures for safety such as escorts and transportation of incarcerated individuals for health care services.
3. The psychiatrist or designee works in conjunction with the medical director when making or approving all mental health decisions regarding the care provided to patients in the institution.
4. Healthcare staff will follow the same security requirements as the correctional staff.
5. The warden will ensure that custody staff support the implementation of clinical decisions and provide administrative support for making services accessible to incarcerated individuals.

6. The DWHS is responsible for the availability of health care staff to meet the clinical needs of the incarcerated individual population by ensuring that adequate staff is hired and scheduled.