

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALLEGHENY COUNTY BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS</b></p>	<b>APPLICABILITY: All Authorized Personnel</b>	
	<b>POLICY NUMBER: 2108</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE: 3/23/2016</b> <b>REVISED: 11/14/2018</b> <b>REVIEWED: 8/19/2021</b> <b>REVIEWED: 6/30/2022</b> <b>REVIEWED: 2/2/2024</b>
	<b>TITLE: Privacy of Care</b> <b>NCCHC: J-A-07;</b> <b>ACA: 4-ALDF-4D-13, 4-ALDF-4D-14, 4-ALDF-4D-19</b>	
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**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections Health Care Services Department that healthcare encounters and exchanges of patient information and clinical encounters remain private.

**PURPOSE**

To ensure the incarcerated individual’s healthcare information is protected and that access to the information is in accordance with state and federal law.

**PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

**NCCHC/ACA:**

1. Discussions of protected patient health information and clinical encounters are conducted in private.
2. Privacy (e.g., screen, curtain, private area) should be afforded during physical exams, with special consideration for pelvic, rectal, breast, or other genital exams.
3. Health care encounters, including medical and mental health interviews, examinations, and procedures are conducted in a setting that respects the person's privacy.
4. Information about an person's health status is confidential. The active health record is maintained separately from the confinement case record. Access to the health record is in accordance with state and federal law.
5. Information provided to correctional, classification staff, volunteers, and visitors address only the medical needs of the incarcerated individual as it relates to housing, program placement, security, and transport.
6. Female incarcerated individuals are provided a female chaperone for encounters with a male healthcare provider.

### **PROCEDURE DETAILS**

1. All health care encounters, including medical and mental health interviews, examinations, and procedures are to be conducted in the designated treatment examination or interview room on the pod in order to provide a setting that respects the person's privacy.
2. Cell side interviews do not provide appropriate visual and auditory privacy for medical or mental health interviews and are not permitted to be used for this purpose.
3. A clinical refusal from is to be completed for any patient who refuses to leave their cell for a medical or mental health interview.

4. The healthcare staff are required to may additional efforts to encourage the patient to leave their cell for a healthcare interview, encounter or examination.
5. The healthcare staff is to document attempts and the patient's response in the healthcare record.
6. Instruction on maintaining confidentiality is given to security staff or interpreters who observe or hear health encounters by the health care provider.
7. A private area or a privacy screen should be afforded the patient during physical exams.
8. Incarcerated individuals may not utilize computer tablets during any healthcare encounters.
9. When indicated, a female chaperone will be present for encounters with a male provider.
10. If effective communication is compromised due to deficits in speech, hearing, or inability to communicate in the same language, arrangements should be made for an interpreter or assistive device. The selection process for a form of assistance or interpreter should reflect the patient's communication preference and desire for privacy.
11. The use of other patients as interpreters should be discouraged and used only in urgent and emergency situations.