

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Operations Division
Health Services Section Policy and Procedure #P-A-09

SUBJECT: PRIVACY OF CARE

POLICY: All health care encounters are to be conducted in a manner that encourages the inmate's subsequent utilization of appropriate health services. During incarceration, inmates are constitutionally entitled to responsive, clinically appropriate, and timely diagnosis, treatment and care of health problems. Health services personnel care for patients with compassion and respect for the patient's privacy and dignity; treatment is provided in an objective and non-judgmental manner; and providers will advocate for the patient's health. The Health Services Program provides services that promote health and prevent illness. The quality of these services is comparable to that available in the community. Finally, health services employees will be willing to be accountable for their professional skill and judgment.

REFERENCE: OAR 291-124-005(3)
NCCHC Standard P-A-09

PROCEDURE:

- A. Health services personnel will be oriented to this policy, which describes the treatment philosophy of the Health Services Program during orientation and on-the-job training.
- B. Each institution shall designate space for the provision of on-site health care that includes, at a minimum, privacy for the health care provider and patient to evaluate health problems.
- C. During clinical encounters, if the patient's behavior poses an immediate threat to the safety of the health care providers, a security chaperon may be present. In these instances, the nurse will advise the security chaperon that any health related information obtained is to be kept confidential.
- D. Arrangements for an interpreter or other assistive devices should be made when communication during clinical encounters is compromised by deficits in speech or hearing, or, when language barriers are present. When possible, the patient should participate in the selection of the interpreter or other form of assistance.

Effective Date: _____
Revision date: February 2007
Supersedes P&P dated: January 2006