I. POLICY:

To ensure a safe environment for all youth, the Department of Juvenile Justice shall objectively classify youth with special medical needs. All staff involved in the direct care of youth shall receive accurate and timely information about any special instructions or interventions that may be needed with youth.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Designated Health Authority: The individual responsible for the facility’s health care services, including arrangements for all levels of health care and the ensuring of quality and accessibility of all health services provided to juveniles. The Designated Health Authority will be a Registered Nurse identified by the job title of Nurse Manager.

Medical Services Staff: Staff licensed as a Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Physician's Assistant, or Physician.

III. PROCEDURES:

A. The Juvenile Tracking System (JTS) Medical Alert will be used to indicate significant medical issues such as the following to non-medical staff:

1. Activity limitations, activity restrictions, program placement;
2. Allergies, asthma, diabetes;
3. Facility quarantine;
4. Infection control (respiratory), infection control (skin), infection control (segregation), heat;
5. Housing;
6. Medication;
7. Pending medical/dental appointment;
8. Seizure disorder;
9. Special medical/dental needs; and
10. Special diets.

B. With the exception of asthma, seizure disorder and diabetes alerts, medical services staff will not indicate the youth’s medical diagnosis in the medical alerts.

C. Medical services staff will not indicate the youth’s HIV status and sexually transmitted infection (STI) information in the medical alerts.

D. Only the information necessary to preserve the health and safety of the youth, other juveniles, staff, volunteers, and visitors will be provided to staff directly involved in the care of youth.

E. If known, medical services staff will indicate an end date for the alert.

F. The Designated Health Authority will review all medical alerts weekly and will ensure that the alerts are accurate.

IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO