

<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE</b>	Transmittal # 17-15	Policy # 11.40
Applicability: { } All DJJ Staff { } Administration { } Community Services {x} Secure Facilities (RYDCs and YDCs)	Related Standards & References: ACA Standards: 4-JCF-4C-10, 4-JCF-4C-34 through 36, 4-JCF-4C-52, 53, 4-JDF-4C-01, 02, 3-JDF-4C-05, 3-JDF-4C-06, 3-JDF-4C-11, 3-JDF-4C-15, 17 NCCHC Juvenile Health Care Standards, 2015: Y-A-02, Y-A-03 DJJ 11.43, 18.11	
Chapter 11: HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES	Effective Date: 12/20/17 Scheduled Review Date: 12/20/18 Replaces: 6/10/16	
Subject: MEDICAL AUTONOMY	Division of Support Services, Office of Health Services	
Attachments:  None	APPROVED:   <hr/> Avery D. Niles, Commissioner	

**I. POLICY:**

The Office of Health Services shall provide quality health care services to youth housed in all DJJ secure facilities. Each secure facility shall have a Designated Health Authority who shall be responsible for arranging all levels of health care and ensuring the provision of quality and accessible health services to juveniles. All clinical decisions and actions regarding health care services shall be the sole province of the responsible physician and medical staff and shall not be compromised for security reasons. Health care providers shall comply with all other applicable policies and regulations.

**II. DEFINITIONS:**

**Advanced Practice Provider:** Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician’s Assistant (PA).

**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.

**Health Care:** For the purposes of this policy, the sum of all action taken, preventive and therapeutic, to provide for the physical well-being of a population. Health care, among other aspects, includes medical services, dental services, personal hygiene, dietary and food services, and environmental conditions.

**Lead Nurse:** The Charge/Lead employee at the facility responsible for the proper management, direction and staffing of the Medical Service Department.

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

**Regional Health Services Administrator (RHSA):** Licensed health service staff who provides support to facility health staff and oversight to ensure the quality and accessibility of all health services provided in the facility.

**Responsible Physician:** The facility primary care physician who makes the final medical judgment regarding the care provided to youth at a specific facility. This includes reviewing the recommendations for treatment made by health providers in the community and directing the overall medical care for youth at that assigned facility.

### III. PROCEDURES:

- A. In accordance with DJJ 11.43, Health Care Staffing, the DJJ Medical Director and the Augusta University’s Department of Correctional Health-Juvenile Health (GCHC-JH) Senior Director will determine the level and type of staffing, the job responsibilities of the medical services staff, and positions assigned to each facility.
- B. Each facility’s Designated Health Authority will prepare schedules that reflect appropriate staffing levels for medical services and dental staff, in accordance with DJJ 11.43, Health Care Staffing.
- C. The Designated Health Authority shall be a Registered Nurse identified by the job title of Lead Nurse. In the event of extended absence of the Designated Health Authority, the Regional Health Services Administrator and GCHC-JH Senior Director will jointly designate, via a memo, a facility staff nurse as the Designated Health Authority on a temporary basis.
- D. The Designated Health Authority’s duties will include, but are not limited to:
  1. Administration and management of the medical services unit and medical services staff;
  2. Arranging for all levels of health care for youth, including arranging care with community health care providers when necessary;
  3. Providing quality health care that is accessible to all youth;
  4. Making recommendations regarding practices that affect the quality of health care services and the environment in relation to health;
  5. Communicating health concerns or diagnoses to parents/guardians and/or other non-medical staff. This responsibility may be delegated to other licensed medical staff;

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6. Oversight of restrictions on movement and transfers for youth with special medical needs;
  7. Interviewing and hiring of all medical services staff; in conjunction with the Regional Health Services Administrator;
  8. Documenting services in JTS within the appropriate module and applicable time frames;
  9. Scheduling clinic coverage for all medical services staff; and
  10. Health services quality assurance activities.
- E. The responsible physician is the physician who provides medical care at the facility. If this physician is unavailable, the responsible physician is the DJJ Medical Director or designee.
- F. Medical services staff (e.g., physician, advanced practice provider, Licensed Practical Nurse, or Registered Nurse) in concurrence with the DJJ Medical Director and GCHC-JH Medical Director and Designated Health Authority, along with the responsible physician and/or the dentist, will make all decisions related to:
1. The delivery of, access to, or the quality of health care services;
  2. Assessment and diagnostic services;
  3. Determining the need for medical services staff to return to the facility for assessments after clinic-hours; and
  4. Determining the need for youth to be transported off-site for medical or dental services.
- G. Medical services staff will provide services within the limits of their license.
- H. Nursing staff will use Nursing Protocols established by the DJJ Medical Director when providing care. (See DJJ 15.11, Requests for Services.) For problems beyond the Nursing Protocols, the Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse must consult an advanced practice provider or physician.
- I. Non-medical personnel will not make decisions on medical matters.
1. Non-medical personnel will not compromise medical decisions, to include interfering with emergency offsite transports for medical care. Changes in non-emergency offsite transportation will be made jointly by the Designated Health Authority and the facility Director. The facility

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Director may contact the Office of Transportation Services for assistance in transporting the youth.

- J. All clinical decisions and actions regarding health care services will be the sole province of the responsible physician. The responsible physician may override any decisions made by the nursing staff and/or advanced practice provider. The advanced practice provider may override any clinical decision made by a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse. The Designated Health Authority will consult with the responsible physician when there are any concerns about the provision of health care services to youth.
- K. The DJJ Medical Director may override any decisions made by the local Designated Health Authority, advanced practice provider or responsible physician.
- L. The medical services staff will notify the advanced practice provider and/or responsible physician when he/she makes a decision to transport a youth for offsite medical care. For all Injury Severity Ratings of 4 and above, the Regional Health Services Administrator, DJJ Medical Director, GCHC-JH Senior Director and Deputy Commissioner of Support Services will be notified via email as soon as possible but no later than 2 hours after the decision is made. The Designated Health Authority, with the cooperation of the facility Director, will ensure that security considerations do not compromise decisions and actions regarding necessary health care for any youth. The facility Director will provide administrative support to ensure the availability of security and transportation for the provision of necessary health services for all youth.
- M. In cases where security concerns and medical management of the youth are in conflict and conflicts cannot be resolved at the local level, the Designated Health Authority, the DJJ Medical Director and/or GCHC-JH Director of Health Services will work in conjunction with the facility Director to ensure that the youth's medical needs are met within security considerations. The DJJ Medical Director/GCHC-JH Senior Director may consult with the Regional Administrator, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, or Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities to make alternate arrangements.
- N. Each policy, procedure and program in the health care delivery system is reviewed at least annually by the Deputy Commissioner of Support Services and DJJ Medical Director in consultation with GCHC-JH Senior Director and revised as necessary.
- O. The Designated Health Authority, in conjunction with the Regional Health Services Administrator, will ensure the completion of local operating procedures for all health services policies that require a procedure. The Designated Health Authority, responsible physician, Regional Health Services Administrator, and the facility Director will sign all health and medical services local operating

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procedures. (The Designated Health Authority, Regional Health Services Administrator, and Director may sign the local operating procedures on different dates, but all must sign before the effective date.) The Designated Health Authority will have input into all procedures and practices that affect health services for the youth to ensure the compliance with professional standards and accepted practice.

**IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO**