I. POLICY:

The designated health services area of each secure facility shall have sufficient space, equipment, and supplies to support the provision of health care services to the youth assigned to the facility.

II. DEFINITIONS:

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

Designated Health Authority (DHA): 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.

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

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA): A federal law that supports the elimination, reduction, and prevention of sexual assault and rape within correctional systems. It applies to all federal, state, and local prisons, juvenile facilities, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, and community settings such as residential placement providers.
III. PROCEDURES:

A. Medical services staff will render health care in private exam rooms with consideration for the youth’s dignity and feelings, with consideration for the safety and security of the health care provider, and in accordance with all PREA established rules and regulations.

1. Medical services staff will conduct all medical services, including history taking, in the medical unit with clinical equipment available for diagnosis that is private enough to ensure the youth will feel free to discuss problems. (Medical services staff will conduct Report of Youth Injuries assessments in accordance with DJJ 8.5, Special Incident Reporting.)

2. The facility Director shall provide a medical chaperone of the same gender as the youth, during physical examinations conducted by medical services staff of the opposite sex. The gender of the staff member conducting examinations on a transgender or intersex resident will depend on the specific needs of the individual youth, the operational concerns of the facility, and in consideration with the gender expression of the resident. (See DJJ 23.1, PREA, and DJJ 23.3, LGBTI.)

3. The facility Director will ensure that Security Staff will be present for all medication administrations. Security staff member’s proximity must allow them to adequately check the youth’s mouth immediately after administration of medications. If the youth refuses to take the medication and refuses to give the medication back to the nurse, the security staff that is observing the administration will immediately confiscate the medication.

4. Medical services staff will arrange for an interpreter or assistive device to enhance communication when needed. Medical services staff will make such arrangements within the parameters of privacy and confidentiality. (See DJJ 15.10, Language Assistance Services.)

5. When the presence of security staff is requested or necessary, medical services staff will make efforts to provide auditory and visual privacy consistent with safety and security concerns and PREA guidelines.

B. Waiting areas will have seats, access to drinking water, and access to toilets for use by youth awaiting health services.

C. The health care area will have sufficient space for:

1. Private examination and treatment, including interviewing;

2. Secure storage of health records, medical supplies, and pharmaceuticals;
3. Office space; and
4. Equipment.

D. The health services area will have a lockable refrigerator, with a separate, covered freezer compartment, for the secure storage of pharmaceuticals/supplies.

E. The health services area will have a second lockable refrigerator, with a separate, covered freezer compartment, for the secure storage of Vaccines for Children (VFC) provided pharmaceuticals/supplies.

F. Current medical and nursing resource material and manuals will be readily accessible.

G. Appropriate medical equipment and supplies will be available in each area where youth are treated. Each treatment area will have an inventory of supplies and equipment consistent with security regulations (see DJJ 7.30, Tool Control). Medical services staff will maintain equipment in good working order. Examination tables may not have tears or cuts that compromise infection control standards (see DJJ 11.30, Infection Control.)

H. Each secure facility will have a contracted provider for the removal of biohazardous waste.

I. The Regional Health Services Administrator and the Designated Health Authority will ensure that medical services staff comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations related to proper decontamination of medical and dental equipment and instruments.

J. Each health services unit will follow the Standard Supplies/Equipment (Attachment A) designated by the DJJ Medical Director and the Augusta University’s Department of Correctional Health-Juvenile Health (GCHC-JH) Senior Director.

K. The quantity of supplies will be indicated by the size and medical needs of the facility.

L. All exam rooms will have access to hand-washing sinks with hot and cold running water, soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.

M. The Regional Health Services Administrator and the Designated Health Authority will ensure that medical services staff maintain appropriate equipment and technological connectivity to allow entry of medical information into the electronic health record.

IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO