

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

MEMORANDUM FOR: Tae Johnson
Assistant Director
Custody Management

FROM: Robert M. Culley
Field Office Director
Salt Lake City

SUBJECT: Washington County Detention Center
Initial Dental Screening Waiver

Purpose

Approve a waiver for the Salt Lake City, St. George ERO Sub-Office (SLC/SGU) as it relates to Medical Care, Part E, Dental Treatment, of the 2000 National Detention Standards (NDS) (Initial dental screening performed by a dentist, physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner). SLC/SGU would respectfully request that the Washington County Detention Center (WCDC) be approved to allow trained registered nurses to complete initial dental screening exams in compliance with the 2014 National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) standards for health service in jails.

Background

Field Medical Coordinator, Matthew J. Gunter inspected the WCDC medical department. Mr. Gunter found that trained nurses were performing initial dental screenings, and even though NCCHC accepts this practice, it is in conflict with ICE's NDS, which states, "If no on-site dentist is available, the initial dental screening may be performed by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner".

Discussion

The WCDC's medical care is provided by the facility's own medical unit. Dental care is provided by a dentist who comes to the facility one day each week. Routine dental care is provided on site by the dentist during his weekly visits. Cases requiring additional surgical treatment are sent off site. The WCDC is a small facility and does not have sufficient staff to transport every detainee to the dentist for the initial dental exam. Initial dental screening is done

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during the physical exam which is performed by a registered nurse. WCDC nurses are trained by the dentist to conduct the initial dental screenings.

Recommendation

I recommend that you approve a waiver to the Medical Care, Part E, Dental Treatment section within the NDS, and allow trained nurses to conduct initial dental screenings within 14 days of the detainee's arrival.

Approve/date Feb 4/15/18

Disapprove/date _____

Modify/date _____

Needs more discussion _____

1HSC concurred with waiver request 2/12/18.