

3.3.2.1 Initial Health Screening – Receiving and Release

(a) Policy

California Department of Corrections (CDCR), Division of Health Care Services (DHCS), Receiving and Release (R&R), nursing staff shall perform an initial health screening on each patient upon commitment to a CDCR institution to identify urgent/emergent dental needs.

(b) Purpose

To provide patients with continuity of health care and to identify urgent/emergent dental conditions requiring referral to a dentist for immediate care.

(c) Procedure

- (1) Each newly arriving patient, including new commitments and parole violators, shall receive an initial health screening including an assessment of their dental needs in R&R, prior to being housed, which shall be performed by nursing staff. (Reference the Health Care Department Operations Manual [HCDOM], Section 3.1.8(c)). This initial health screening shall not be considered as the Reception Center (RC) dental screening that is performed by a dentist and is an integral part of the RC classification process.
- (2) Upon completing the initial health screening, the Registered Nurse (RN) or licensed health care provider, shall document the findings in the Electronic Health Record System (EHRS).
- (3) The RN or licensed health care provider conducting the initial health screening shall be trained to perform assessments of dental needs prior to being assigned to work in R&R. The Supervising RN, or designee, shall maintain all training records.
- (4) Results of the initial health screening.
 - (A) If the RN or licensed health care provider determines the dental issue to be urgent, the patient shall be referred to and evaluated by a dentist within one business day.
 - (B) In the case of a dental emergency during dental clinic operating hours, health care staff performing the initial health screening shall follow the procedure outlined in the HCDOM, Section 3.3.5.9(c)(2).
 - (C) In the case of a dental emergency outside dental clinic operating hours, health care staff performing the initial health screening shall follow the procedure outlined in the HCDOM, Section 3.3.5.9(c)(3).
 - (D) Health care staff conducting the initial health screening shall follow the procedure outlined in the HCDOM, Section 3.3.2.3(c)(3) if the patient refuses the dental encounter.
- (5) If any questions are answered “yes” by the patient during the initial health screening, the RN or licensed health care provider shall follow established protocol for referral of the patient to a dentist or physician for further evaluation or treatment. Based upon the RN’s review of all relevant data, a disposition shall be recorded in the EHRS.
- (6) The R&R nurse shall place the appropriate referral order in the EHRS for patients who need to be seen by a dentist on an urgent or emergent basis.

References

- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 3.1.8, Reception Center
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 3, Section 3.3.2.3, Comprehensive Dental Examinations – Mainline Facility
- Health Care Department Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Article 3, Section 3.3.5.9, Dental Emergencies

Revision History

Effective: 04/2006

Revision: 11/2017, 11/2020, 02/2022