

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY****CORRECTIONS ADMINISTRATION
POLICY AND PROCEDURES****EFFECTIVE DATE:**
07/02/2003**POLICY NO.:**
COR.10.1A.02**SUPERSEDES (Policy No. & Date):**
COR.10A.01 (01/21/99)**SUBJECT:****RESPONSIBLE HEALTH AUTHORITY****Page 1 of 3**

No. 2003-773

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the individual with the overall responsibility for the administration, management and supervision of health care services at each facility.

2.0 REFERENCES AND DEFINITIONS**.1 References**

- a. Hawaii Revised Statutes; Section 26-14.6; Department of Public Safety; and Section 353C-2, Director of Public Safety, Powers and Duties.
- b. National Commission on Correctional Health Care, Standards for Health Services in Prisons and Jails (2003).
- c. American Correctional Association, Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, (1990), 3-4326.

.2 Definitions

- a. Chief Physician: The Physician II responsible for supervision of medical services and medical care. The Physician II is the facility Medical Authority.
- b. Clinical Section Administrator (CSA): The Registered Professional Nurse IV or V is the Health Authority and is in charge of clinical services at each facility.

3.0 POLICY

- .1 The Clinical Section Administrator is the Health Authority and shall be responsible for the administration, management, and overall supervision of health care services at the facility.
- .2 The Health Authority's responsibilities are documented in a written agreement, contract, or position description.
- .3 The Health Authority's position location shall be at the facility Health Care Section.
- .4 Medical judgments and decisions rest with a single, designated, licensed, responsible physician.

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4.0 PROCEDURES

- .1 The Health Authority arranges for all levels of health care and assures quality accessible and timely health services for patients.
- .2 In facilities with no permanently assigned physician, the visiting physician, the Medical Director, or the physician-on-call shall be the medical authority.
- .3 The Health Authority shall work with other Section and Branch Administrators to ensure smooth integration of health care services into facility operations and shall represent Clinical Services at facility administrative meetings.
- .4 Other authorities in the Health Care Sections are:
 - a. Health Information Authority: The Health Information Branch or Section Administrator or the highest ranking Medical Record Technician shall be the authority over inmate medical records and health information management at the facilities.
 - b. Mental Health Authority: The highest-ranking Psychiatrist shall be the Mental Health Authority at the facilities. If there is no psychiatrist, the highest-ranking clinical psychologist shall be the Mental Health Authority.
 - c. Dental Authority: The dentist shall be the Dental Authority.
 - d. In facilities with no assigned Psychiatrist, psychologist or dentist, the Medical Director shall be the Mental Health and Dental Authority for the facility.

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5.0 **SCOPE**

This policy and procedure applies to all correctional facilities and their assigned staff.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED:

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 Medical Director Date
Wiley 6/20/03
 Correctional Health Care Administrator Date
Frank Lopez 7/1/03
 Deputy Director of Corrections Date

APPROVED:

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 Director
7/2/03
 Date