


Idaho Department of Correction 	Standard Operating Procedure	Title: Counseling and Care of the Pregnant Offender		Page: 1 of 4
		Control Number: 401.06.03.058	Version: 4.0	Adopted: 00-00-2015

Pat Donaldson, chief of the Management Services Division, approved this document on 11/27/2015.

Open to the public: Yes No

Redacted version available: Yes No

SCOPE

This standard operating procedure (SOP) applies to all Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) health care services staff, offenders, contract medical providers and subcontractors.

<p>Revision Summary</p>
<p>Revision date (11/27/2015) version 4.0: Periodic review to confirm accuracy and revise to align with national standards. Title change from "Pregnancy Counseling".</p> <p>This revised SOP combines and makes obsolete;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOP 401.06.03.073 (Abortion) • SOP 401.06.03.055 (Pregnant Offender)

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BOARD OF CORRECTION IDAPA RULE NUMBER 401

Medical Care

POLICY CONTROL NUMBER 401

Clinical Services and Treatment

PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to ensure that pregnant offenders receive timely and appropriate counseling, prenatal care, specialized obstetrical care when indicated, and postpartum care.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements ensure that pregnant offenders and their fetuses are provided every opportunity for healthy outcomes, and that the pregnant offender is afforded supportive counseling and is not coerced into making any decision contrary to her expressed desires.

1. Counseling

The pregnant offender shall receive comprehensive counseling and assistance in accordance with their expressed desires regarding their pregnancy, whether they elect to keep the infant, use adoption services, or have an abortion.

2. Staff/Offender Therapeutic Relationship

Reproductive healthcare services shall be provided in a non-biased fashion regardless of sex, race, religion, age, or marital status. Healthcare services staff shall not withhold service or information from offenders due to their own personal or religious convictions. The confidentiality of encounters and healthcare records shall be maintained.

3. Abortion

Pregnant offenders may request an abortion in consultation with a healthcare provider. Pregnant offenders will be given information and counseling concerning the nature, consequences and risks of the procedure, as well as information on alternatives available when making a decision to continue or terminate a pregnancy. In accordance with Idaho code 18-609 (3)(c), the information provided to the offender must include the state-sponsored information that can be found at the following internet website;

http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Health/Statistics/Misc%20Reports/Induced%20Abortion%20Summary/Abortion_Web_12.pdf

If a woman offender requests an abortion, the request must be forwarded to the health authority for referral to the deputy attorneys general (DAG) who represent the IDOC for a formal legal opinion based on Idaho law.

As a general rule, abortion is considered an elective procedure unless the attending obstetrician determines that it is medically necessary in order to protect the offender's life or health; therefore, if provided, an abortion must be paid for by the offender.

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4. Prenatal Care

Pregnant offenders who choose to continue their pregnancy shall receive obstetric care as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed. Care will be provided by healthcare services and through contractual arrangements with community providers and hospitals.

Each facility providing care to pregnant offenders shall have written guidelines describing the medical and support services that will be provided through the entire prenatal period, including, but not limited to, prenatal care, prenatal education, transportation, referral to high risk care centers, nutritional guidance, appropriate levels of activity, safety precautions and follow-up of chronic healthcare problems.

5. Postpartum Care

The delivering healthcare provider shall determine the timeframe for postpartum follow up appointments for both vaginal and caesarean births.

6. Infant: Placement and Responsibility

Counselors and/or Case Managers will assist the pregnant offender to make an informed decision regarding the placement of an infant born to her during incarceration. Neither the IDOC nor the contract medical provider is responsible for the cost of care of the infant after delivery. In all matters, compliance with appropriate Idaho law is required.

7. Contraception

Women of reproductive age should have the opportunity to consult with a qualified health care professional (QHCP) regarding their future desires for either becoming pregnant or preventing pregnancy. Upon release, health care staff can facilitate family planning services by providing contact information for community-based resources that will be available to the offender after release.

8. Restraints

Restraint in the third trimester and during labor and delivery should not be used except when necessary due to serious threat of harm to the patient, staff, or others. If restraints are deemed necessary, abdominal restraints, leg/ankle restraints, and wrist restraints behind the back should not be used. Post-partum restraints should allow for the mother's safe handling of her infant and mother-infant bonding.

DEFINITIONS

Contract Medical Provider: A private company or other entity that is under contract with the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) to provide comprehensive medical, dental, and/or mental health services to the IDOC's incarcerated offender population.

Facility Health Authority: The contract medical provider employee who is primarily responsible for overseeing the delivery of medical services in an Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) facility.

Facility Medical Director: The highest ranking physician in an Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) facility.

Health Authority: The Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) employee who is primarily responsible for overseeing or managing the IDOC's medical services. (The health authority is commonly referred to as the health services director.)

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Qualified Health Care Professional (QHCP): A physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse, dentist, mental health professional, or other health professional who — by virtue of his education, training, credentials, and experience — is permitted by law (within the scope of his professional practice) to educate, train, evaluate, provide services, and care for patients

REFERENCES

National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC), *Standards for Health Services in Prisons*, Standard P-G-08 Contraception, P-G-09 Counseling and Care of the Pregnant Inmate

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