

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN NO: **15.01.03**

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SUBJECT: ON – CALL PHYSICIAN

EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/21/2021

I. PURPOSE:

It is mandatory that every institution is provided 24-hour physician coverage; the purpose is to make certain that there is planned physician coverage for all off-duty hours.

These standards and responsibilities apply to both Department staff and Comprehensive Health Care Contractor (CHCC) staff.

II-A. ACTION:

- A. The Regional Medical Director (RMD) will ensure that institutions have an on-call physician and, for S3 and higher institutions, an on-call psychiatrist schedule, covering all off-duty hours, available to institutional health care staff at all times.
- B. Physicians assigned on-call duties are responsible for providing phone consultations to health care staff.
- C. If staff cannot contact the on-call physician, the Chief Health Officer (CHO) / Institutional Medical Director is the next person to be called upon. If staff cannot contact the CHO/ Institutional Medical Director, then staff will contact the RMD.

II-B. ACTION:

- A. The RMD may arrange for other on-call coverage when appropriate.
- B. The on-call schedule will be distributed to Wardens, Health Services Administrator, all providers (CHO/ Institutional Medical Director, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse [APRN], Physician Assistant [PA]), Health Information Specialist (HIS) and Director of Nursing.
- C. The on-call schedule must be posted at the nurse's station along with the list of provider's contact numbers (cell phone number and an alternate number).

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- D. Unsuccessful efforts to contact the on-call physician must not delay accessing the Emergency Medical System if there is an emergent situation.
- E. On-call physicians not abiding to this HSB may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to [Rules 33-208.002](#) and [33-208.003](#) or Contractors' disciplinary process as the case may be.

Director of Health Services

Date

This Health Services Bulletin Supersedes:

HSB 15.01.03 dated 5/24/88, 12/11/88, 4/15/91, 3/7/94, 3/22/94, 11/24/97, 6/03/04, 6/12/07, 2/19/09, 12/12/11, 7/22/14, 11/17/17, 05/23/2018, AND 05/13/2019

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