

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN 15.02.16

Page 1 of 4

SUBJECT: INMATE MEDICAL PASSES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/02/2021

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this health services bulletin (HSB) is to provide guidelines for the issuance of a medical pass.

Note: All care for impaired inmates must be provided in accordance with HSB 15.03.25, *Services for Inmates with Auditory, Mobility, or Vision Impairments and Disabilities*, and as applicable, Procedure 604.101, *Americans with Disabilities Act Provisions for Inmates*.

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

II. DEFINITION:

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Pass: A written authorization issued to an inmate who has been identified as having an ADA impairment and/or disability requiring an accommodation, aid, or service.

Medical pass: A written authorization (based on sound medical judgment) from health services to the other institutional offices that will permit an inmate certain relief from a departmental or institutional requirement which affects a special medical problem.

III. DURATION OF PASSES:

The length of time a pass is valid is based upon sound medical judgment and should be written for a period of time consistent with medical need, but should not extend beyond one year with the exception of ADA passes. All passes will have a start date and a stop date with the exception of ADA passes.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY:

The Chief Health Officer/ Institutional Medical Director is responsible for ensuring that any medical pass issued is for a documented medical need and is issued only for the length of time that the need exists.

V. PROCEDURES:

- A. A medical pass can only be prescribed by a physician or a clinical associate. Non-physician health-care providers (nursing staff, dentist, psychologist or mental health clinician) may issue a temporary pass that will not exceed fourteen (14) days.

SUBJECT: INMATE MEDICAL PASSES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/02/2021

-
- B. A valid medical pass held by an inmate in transit will be honored during transit and at the receiving institution until the expiration date.
 - C. If a pass expires when an inmate is in transit, the inmate must be assessed by a physician or clinical associate to determine the continuing need as prescribed and, if warranted, a temporary medical pass may be issued until the inmate reaches a permanent institution.
 - D. Upon arrival at a new facility, screening health care staff will verify that a pass is, in fact, authorized as documented in the medical records. Passes that are authorized, as documented, will be stamped with the name stamp of the person doing the screening and the pass will be returned to the inmate.
 - E. An evaluation to determine the continued need for a pass that was already properly authorized at the sending institution may be completed at the discretion of the clinician at the receiving institution but is not required.
 - F. ADA Passes are permanent and do not need to be renewed.
 - 1. Renewal of previously issued ADA passes will not require a copay.
 - 2. ADA Passes that are lost or destroyed will be addressed through sick call and will require a copay for replacement.
 - G. Continued need for non-ADA passes may be reviewed upon expiration and/or as incidental to an encounter that is related to a condition which required the pass. Additional information for ADA passes can be found in procedure 403.013.
 - H. When a pass is revoked by a clinician, the inmate will be notified by health services staff. The rationale for revocation will be explained to the inmate and documented on [DC4-701](#), *Chronological Record of Health Care*.
 - I. In addition to the [DC4-701](#), *Chronological Record of Health Care* entry, each medical pass will be entered on page two (2) of the appropriate GH08, DS08, or MH08 screen.
 - J. Form [DC4-701D](#), *Health Slip/Pass* can be ordered from PRIDE.
 - K. NOTE: For Gender Dysphoria and/or transgender related passes, refer to Procedure 403.012, Identification and Management of Inmates Diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria.

VII. CRITERIA:

All inmate medical passes are based on genuine medical need to enhance the resolution of a temporary condition or to facilitate the care and treatment of a permanent condition.

SUBJECT: INMATE MEDICAL PASSES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/02/2021

A. Low/Bottom Bunk

Bunk assignment is a function of the housing officer. A medical request for a low bunk must be based on medical need only. NOTE: There is no medical indication for a single bunk.

B. Cotton Blanket (only for demonstrated allergy to wool)

There are few true allergies to wool and, as such, cotton blanket passes should be rare. To prove allergy, request that the inmate strip to undergarments and remain wrapped in a wool blanket for 20 to 40 minutes. If a rash develops, it may be allergy and a pass may be issued. Follow-up allergy testing must be initiated.

C. Restricted Activity

1. Do not write a pass that is subject to interpretation.

2. Bed-Rest Lay In

All lay ins are to be considered a bed-rest lay in requiring the inmate to be lying in a bunk except for trips to the bathroom and dining hall. No lay in should exceed 72 hours. A condition requiring a longer stay should be treated in the infirmary.

3. No Work Permitted

Due to medical condition, the inmate cannot perform any work activity either on the facility grounds or off the correctional facility property. These passes should be temporary. Renewal requires a thorough clinical evaluation of the condition that prompted the pass.

4. No Work Off Site

Due to medical condition, the inmate cannot perform any work activity off the correctional facility property.

5. Light Work On Site

Due to medical condition, the inmate can only perform light work activity on the correctional facility site.

6. Lower-Floor Pass

Assigned to inmates who have severe mobility limitations or who use wheelchairs.

D. Wheel Chair

The following passes will be assigned to inmates who have a temporary or permanent need for the use of a wheelchair:

- WHEE1 will be for a temporary pass not to exceed six (6) months;

SUBJECT: INMATE MEDICAL PASSES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/02/2021

- WHEE2 will be a permanent ADA pass and does not require renewal.

VIII. OTHER:

Instances may arise that require special circumstances or accommodations. These passes must be specific and must be based upon medical reasons. When in doubt, request advice from the Regional Medical Director.

Avoid passes for:

- A. Bed board- All institutions have steel bottom bunks to which the inmate can be assigned.
- B. Double pillows- There are few conditions requiring double pillows.
- C. Double mattresses- Special mattresses (egg crates, polyurethane, gel, and air) are not authorized. Gel, air, or egg crate mattresses will **only** be utilized in the infirmary/hospital setting.
- D. No sweat- There is no medical condition requiring the absence of sweat production for healing purposes.
- E. No sun- If the actinic rays cause premalignant lesions or if psychotropic or other medications are being prescribed that increase sun sensitivity, request long-sleeve shirts and a hat (broad-brimmed or straw). **Sunscreen or hat passes should only be issued when working conditions require such for medical reasons.**
- F. Comfort and convenience items.
- G. ADA accommodations that are not issued by medical, such as key lock, talking books, vibrating watches, etc. Passes for these items will be issued by the institutional ADA coordinator.

IX. RELEVANT FORMS

- A. [DC4-701, Chronological Record of Health Care](#)
- B. [DC4-701D, Health Slip/Pass](#)

 Health Services Director

 Date

 This Health Services Bulletin Supersedes:

HSB 15.03.07 dated 4/1/88,
 12/5/88, 5/22/89 and 4/15/91
 HSB 15.02.16 dated 6/15/95, 2/26/96, and 12/4/97
 6/14/01, 5/3/02, 6/24/04, 9/26/11, 04/02/13, 4/01/14, 2/02/18,
 06/26/2019, AND 07/10/2020
