

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN NO: **15.04.06**

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SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/18/2021

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this health services bulletin is to set forth the guidelines for prescribing dental radiographs at Department of Corrections reception centers and major institutions.

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

II. ACTION:

A. Responsibility:

1. The guidelines serve as recommendations that institutional dentists can use to determine when a radiograph should be exposed. These guidelines will help determine the type of radiograph needed, how frequently, and under what conditions radiographs shall be taken. Under these guidelines, a dentist will expose a radiograph based on clinical observation and the inmate's dental health history.
2. The guidelines are based on the inmate's selection criteria, which are descriptions of clinical conditions derived from patient signs, symptoms, and dental history. These guidelines are to be used to identify patients who are likely to benefit from a particular radiographic examination. They are to be used by dentists only after reviewing the patient's dental health history and completing a clinical examination. If treatment is needed during pregnancy, the minimum amount of radiation exposure necessary to complete the procedure should be utilized.
3. The following procedures are to be followed at reception centers upon intake of inmates:
 - a. Expose radiographs necessary when providing treatment for transient status inmates. This includes panorex and/or periapical radiographs.
 - b. A panorex will be exposed at the treating dentist's discretion.
 - c. Required radiographs necessary to develop a treatment plan will be the responsibility of the treating dentist at the inmate's permanent institution.

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d. Film-based dental radiographs are to be mounted dot out.

B. Guidelines:

1. Permanent Party Inmates Receiving Comprehensive Care:

a. If inmate is dentulous: Individualized radiographic examination shall consist of one (1) of the following:

- (1) A full-mouth series consisting of fourteen (14) periapical radiographs and four (4) regular bitewings. Bitewing radiographs may be omitted from full-mouth series when an insufficient number of posterior teeth exist.
- (2) A panorex, four (4) regular bitewings, and anterior periapical radiographs. When indicated, select periapical radiographs should be exposed. Periapical radiographs may be substituted for bitewing radiographs when an insufficient number of posterior teeth exist.

b. If inmate is edentulous: A thorough intraoral radiographic examination shall consist of:

- (1) A periapical radiograph of each sextant; or
- (2) An occlusal radiograph of each arch; or
- (3) A panoramic radiograph.

c. Radiograph Longevity

- (1) Periapical radiographs from a full-mouth series and/or panorex can be acceptable for a maximum five (5) year period of time.
- (2) Bitewing radiographs can be acceptable for a maximum two (2) year period of time.

2. Dental Periodic Oral Examination for Inmate Whose Dental Treatment has been Completed:

Unless indicated as part of the oral examination, dental radiographs will be exposed as part of a complete dental examination after an inmate requests comprehensive dental care again.

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3. Dental Periodic Oral Examination for Inmate Who has Not Received Comprehensive Care (i.e., waiting for an appointment or desires no dental treatment):

Periapical and/or bitewing radiograph(s) of those symptomatic areas needing emergency dental treatment, provided the inmate has not signed the, [DC4-711A](#), *Refusal of Health Care Services*. Otherwise, radiographs are to be taken during treatment planning.

III. RELEVANT FORMS:

- A. [DC4-711A](#), *Refusal of Health Care Services*
B. DC4-745A, Health Folder

Director of Health Services

Date

This Health Services Bulletin Supersedes:

HSB 15.04.06 dated 3/9/89, 5/1/90,
11/15/91, 9/22/93, 2/22/95, 7/18/96,
10/27/97, 5/10/99, 3/07/01, 06/08/05,
04/14/08, 08/26/14, 6/6/16, 8/14/2017, AND
12/15/2019
