

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: Administrative – Organization

POLICY # AD II-8

PAGE 1 of 1

SUBJECT: Forensic Investigations (Body Cavity Searches)

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 2009

SUPERCEDES DATE: July 2007

References

Related ACA Standards

**4th Edition Standards for Adult Correctional
Institutions 4-4193**

PURPOSE

To provide guidance for the use of body cavity searches in pursuit of contraband that may affect the safety and security of a facility

POLICY

Information may be received or circumstances may present themselves which would indicate to a member of the staff that there is reason to believe that a particular inmate is concealing contraband in a body orifice. When such a situation occurs, it will be immediately brought to the attention of the Facility Administrator/designee. The decision as to whether or not a search of the body orifice will be conducted rests with the Facility Administrator/designee, in consultation with a physician.

PROCEDURE

- A. Body cavity searches conducted for reasons of security (contraband) may be performed by any properly trained health care provider, preferably by someone who is not providing care to that facility's population, such as someone outside the prison system or at least from another facility.
- B. The preferred method to recover contraband from a body cavity is to lock the inmate in a dry cell and wait for the contraband to be expelled naturally.
- C. X-ray of the body cavity area is authorized after the Facility Administrator/designee consults with the physician providing coverage for the facility and dry cell seclusion has proven to be ineffective.
- D. Body cavity searches should only be done in potentially life-threatening situations.
- E. The probing of any body cavity (without the use of instruments) shall be done so as to cause no injury or infection.

DOCUMENTATION

- A. A written record will be made of the circumstances which prompted the search, whether or not the inmate consented to the search, whether or not any contraband was discovered, and whether or not any injury was inflicted upon the inmate. This record will be made a part of the inmate's field file.
- B. In matters of sexual assault, evidence for forensic purposes will be collected in accordance with Healthcare Policy CP-18.

Paula Y. Smith, M.D.

4/9/09

Paula Y. Smith, M.D. Director of Health Services Date

SOR: Director of Health Services