



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**PRISONS DIVISION**  
P. O. Box 41118 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1118

March 20, 2020

TO: All Superintendents  
All Health Services Managers

FROM: Robert Herzog, Assistant Secretary *rh*  
Julie Martin, Deputy Secretary *J. Martin*

RE: Dry Cell Watch Medical Assessments

*Approved  
DAF  
3/20/20*

The following change for required medical assessments for incarcerated individuals on dry cell watch status has changed for those placed on dry cell watch in an Infirmary, Close Observation Area (COA) or other Health Services location. Effective immediately, the following schedule of Health Services assessments should be implemented.

Nursing will report the assessment results to medical practitioner as needed, until the dry cell watch is concluded. Nursing checks will be conducted in-cell, will include dialogue with the offender, rapid physical assessment, and the taking of vital signs and documentation of every encounter. The frequency of the nursing checks will be conducted as follows:

- Every hour for the first day;
- Every two hours on the second day;
- Every three hours on the third day;
- Every four hours in the fourth day and beyond.

Monitoring may be modified to be more frequent if indicated based on clinical evaluation of the patient.

Cc: All Health Service Administrators  
DOC COVID-19