



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
PRISON
OFFENDER/SPANISH MANUALS

REVISION DATE
12/14/20

PAGE NUMBER
1 of 5

NUMBER
DOC 420.312

POLICY

TITLE
BODY CAVITY SEARCH

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

Effective: 7/30/99
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 Revised: 12/14/20

SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW:

Major changes to include updated terminology throughout. Read carefully!


APPROVED:

Signature on file

STEPHEN SINCLAIR, Secretary
 Department of Corrections

11/18/20

 Date Signed

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REFERENCES:


DOC 100.100 is hereby incorporated into this policy; DOC 420.110 Escorted Leaves and Furloughs; DOC 420.310 Searches of Offenders; DOC 420.311 Dry Cell Search/Watch; DOC 420.375 Contraband and Evidence Handling (RESTRICTED); DOC 610.010 Offender Consent for Health Care

POLICY:

- I. The Department has established guidelines to conduct a body cavity (i.e., rectal or vaginal) search to recover contraband which is believed to be carried/secreted internally by an incarcerated individual.
- II. Unless a health care practitioner determines a body cavity search is emergent as a lifesaving procedure, body cavity searches will occur at a local community healthcare facility.
 - A. Body cavity searches will be conducted in a non-abusive manner and outside the presence of other incarcerated individuals and unnecessary employees/contract staff.

DIRECTIVE:


- I. Voluntary Assistance
 - A. At any time, individuals may request assistance from Health Services to recover concealed/secreted items. Voluntary removal of items from a body cavity is not considered a body cavity search and will be considered a medical procedure.
 1. Consent will be documented per DOC 610.010 Offender Consent for Health Care and the procedure will be documented using DOC 13-435 Primary Encounter Report.
 - a. The health care practitioner will determine if the removal is safe to conduct onsite or if best completed at a local community healthcare facility in consultation with the Facility Medical Director/designee.
 2. Recovered items are considered voluntarily surrendered, will be handled and disposed of per DOC 420.375 Contraband and Evidence Handling, and may be subject to disciplinary action.
- II. Authorization When Consent Is Not Obtained
 - A. A body cavity search may be authorized when there is reasonable suspicion that an individual is concealing contraband internally, and:

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1. The concealment is an imminent threat to life or security,
 2. All other means, including a dry cell search, have been exhausted or are inappropriate, and
 3. The search will occur at a local community healthcare facility, unless emergent.
- B. To help determine the presence and risk of contraband, non-invasive and minimally invasive procedures (e.g., blood tests, x-rays, body scanner) may be ordered by a health care practitioner without the individual's consent.
- C. Employees/contract staff will submit DOC 21-998 Body Cavity Search Authorization to the Superintendent for review and approval/denial.
1. The Superintendent will obtain approval from the Assistant Secretary for Prisons/designee to determine a body cavity search is safe and to specify any requirements.
 - a. Assistant Secretary for Prisons/designee approval may be given verbally, which will be documented on DOC 21-998 Body Cavity Search Authorization and signed within one business day after receiving approval.

III. Body Cavity Search Procedure

- A. If conducted onsite for emergent purposes, all participants in a body cavity search process will be the same gender as the individual being searched. If the same gender is not available, a chaperone will be present.
 1. If time and circumstances allow, the Superintendent will assign a member of the facility management team to monitor the body cavity search procedure.
- B. The Superintendent will ensure a custody employee documents all elements of the search using DOC 21-999 Body Cavity Search Procedure.
- C. The procedure will be video recorded, except for the search of the body cavity, starting with all events leading to the search. The recording should be continuous to record as much of the search as possible.
 1. Away from the incarcerated individual, a custody employee will record the following opening statement:
 - a. Date and time,

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- b. Name and DOC number of the individual being searched,
- c. Names of all employees/contract staff involved, and
- d. Special instructions.

D. Individuals will be escorted to a local community healthcare facility, as approved by the Superintendent, to retrieve the item(s) per DOC 420.110 Escorted Leaves and Furloughs.

1. A strip search will be conducted before transport per DOC 420.310 Searches of Offenders.

2. A custody employee must remain with the individual at all times.

3. Body cavity searches will be conducted by medical personnel at the local community healthcare facility.

E. If the medical personnel does not recommend retrieval, the individual will be returned to or placed on dry cell search/watch per DOC 420.311 Dry Cell Search/Watch.

F. If any contraband is expelled/retrieved, the search may be continued to verify the presence of additional contraband.

1. Recovered contraband will be handled per DOC 420.375 Contraband and Evidence Handling (RESTRICTED).

IV. Documentation

A. Incident documents will be completed and forwarded to the Superintendent through the chain of command.

1. A copy of the completed DOC 21-998 Body Cavity Search Authorization will be forwarded to the appropriate Deputy Director after the search.

B. A report will be completed in the Incident Report Management System.

DEFINITIONS:

The following words/terms are important to this policy and are defined in the glossary section of the Policy Manual: Contraband, Reasonable Suspicion. Other words/terms appearing in this policy may also be defined in the glossary.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



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DOC FORMS:

DOC 13-435 Primary Encounter Report

DOC 21-998 Body Cavity Search Authorization

DOC 21-999 Body Cavity Search Procedure