

Medical Watch (Title 15, Section 1402)

Effective Date:	06/10/2026
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Issuing Authority: Chief Probation Officer	

723.1 PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for implementing a Medical Watch for youth with significant health concerns to ensure the safety, medical, and mental health well-being of youth in Juvenile Detention and Assessment Centers (JDACs) and Treatment Facilities (TFs).

723.2 DEFINITIONS:

Medical Watch: A recurring face-to-face medical assessment, the frequency of which is determined by the Correctional Nurse or the physician/provider, designed to assess a youth with specific medical illnesses/conditions that may have implications for special health services provided by designated medical staff.

Significant Health Concerns: A condition that has the potential to result in negative outcomes if not evaluated, treated, and monitored. Youth in this category may have a chronic illness (such as diabetes), an acute or communicable illness (such as chickenpox), or a disability requiring assistive devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, or canes. This category also includes, but is not limited to, pregnant youth, those who are terminally ill, and/or developmentally disabled.

Health Kardex: A confidential, preprinted, two-sided patient health information form on durable card stock.

723.3 GUIDELINES:

- A. Specific health care conditions requiring a Medical Watch may be identified during the intake assessment process, sick call/rounds processes, or as a result of a medical emergency.
- B. A Medical Watch is a medical assessment tool only; it shall not be a substitute for any other form of detention supervision.
- C. Clinical decisions regarding the treatment of the youth are the sole responsibility of licensed health care professionals operating within the scope of their license and facility policy defining health care services.
- D. A Medical Watch shall only be ordered and conducted by authorized medical personnel.
- E. Licensed Vocational Nurses are not authorized to order or discontinue a Medical Watch.

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723.4 RESPONSIBILITIES:

- I. Physician/Provider:
 - A. Order a Medical Watch as deemed necessary and include:
 - 1. The reason the youth is placed on the Medical Watch.
 - 2. The frequency of evaluations.
 - 3. The duration of the Medical Watch.
 - B. Discontinue Medical Watches when deemed appropriate.
 - C. Upon completion of a Medical Watch, review the Medical Watch documentation.
- II. Supervising Correctional Nurse I/II/Designee:
 - A. Refer to I. A. 1-3.
 - B. Ensure Medical Watches are implemented accordingly.
 - C. Initiate a medical treatment plan for medical conditions that meet the criteria for a plan, pursuant to existing medical procedures.
 - D. May discontinue a Medical Watch initiated by Correctional Nurses when deemed appropriate.
- III. Correctional Nurse I/II/Licensed Vocational Nurse I/II:
 - A. Correctional Nurses may order a Medical Watch.
 - 1. Include the reason, frequency, and duration of the Medical Watch.
 - B. Correctional Nurses may discontinue a Medical Watch initiated by a Correctional Nurse when deemed necessary.
 - C. Activate the "Medical Watch" flag in the electronic health record.
 - D. Add the patient to the Medical Watch list in the Group Management section of the electronic health record.
 - E. Inform the Watch Commander, unit staff, and youth when initiating a Medical Watch.
 - 1. Provide unit staff with medical instruction sheets for conditions that require additional health education.
 - F. Document the start and stop time and frequency in the Medical Watch section of the Health Kardex.
 - G. Ensure ongoing documentation is completed to include:
 - 1. Vital signs.
 - 2. Individual Assessment per ordered frequency.
 - H. Immediately report any abnormal findings discovered during the assessment to the physician/provider.

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- I. Upon the completion of the Medical Watch, submit the Medical Watch documentation to the physician/provider for review.
- IV. Watch Commander/Designee:
 - A. Work collaboratively with medical staff to ensure youth on a Medical Watch are in appropriate housing and program settings, considering their individual medical needs.
- V. Sworn Officers:
 - A. Maintain awareness of all youth under their care who have been placed on Medical Watch, review all associated documentation (e.g., Health Kardex and medical instruction sheets), and request clarification from medical staff when necessary.
- VI. Health Services Manager:
 - A. Shall inspect compliance with this procedure through review of logs, incident reports, safety reviews, and other safeguards conducted in the normal course of business on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.