

Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures

9.5 Requests for private medical practitioners

Policy summary

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) is committed to the safe and effective management of inmates. Inmates may use the services of a private medical practitioner if:

- the Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN) personnel support the request of the inmate and it is approved by the governor or authorised officer, or
- JH&FMHN have advised of an appointment that is approved, or
- If there is a court direction or request made by a legal representative

Staff must ensure that appropriate measures and procedures associated with any conditional absence to attend an appointment are implemented with due care.

Management of Public Correctional Centres Service Specifications

Service specifications	Decency and respect Health services Safety and security
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Scope

This section applies to all correctional centres and other facilities administered by or on behalf of CSNSW.

It also applies to all CSNSW employees, and where relevant to other personnel such as JH&FMHN, contractors, subcontractors, and visitors.

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1 Requests for private medical practitioners

1.1 Policy

CSNSW is committed to the safe and effective management of inmates. An inmate may request to use a private medical practitioner of their choice, or a private health service, if:

- JH&FMHN personnel support the inmate's request, and
- it is approved by the Governor or authorised officer.

All costs associated with the use of a private medical practitioner or health service are to be met by the inmate, including CSNSW escort and transport costs.

JH&FMHN may also determine that an inmate requires the use of a private medical practitioner or health service including cosmetic surgery or tattoo removal, if the medical treatment or assessment required, cannot be provided by them, or through the State's public hospital and health system.

In certain circumstances, private providers may be engaged by JH&FMHN to provide this care. The inmate will not be required to meet any costs associated with the treatment, or escort or transport for the treatment.

JH&FMHN staff may only make recommendations for inmates to undergo plastic cosmetic surgery or plastic reconstructive surgery and tattoo removal, under specific and exceptional circumstances. All other non-essential plastic surgery or tattoo removal will be dealt with by JH&FMHN in accordance with *Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network: Policy 1.253 Access to Private Health Services* and *Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network: Policy 1.100 Plastic Surgery & Tattoo removal*.

All requests must be considered along with all security aspects involved before a recommendation or approval is made by the Governor or authorised officer in the first instance and will be referred for assessment by the intelligence officer or Corrections Intelligence Group (CIG), where required.

The Governor must ensure the necessary local leave permit is in place before an inmate is permitted to leave a correctional centre to attend a private medical practitioner or health service.

If there is a court direction or request made by a legal representative for the treatment or assessment of an inmate by a private medical practitioner, the inmate must be permitted to attend the appointment to allow for medical reports to be prepared and produced in court proceedings. The inmate is not required to meet the associated costs, and it may not be necessary to gain the support or endorsement of JH&FMHN.

1.2 Procedures

The Governor or authorised officer must ensure the following procedures are implemented when considering an inmate request for access to private medical practitioners:

	Procedure	Responsibility
1.	Refer request by inmates to use a private medical practitioner if supported, or if a recommendation has been made by JH&FMHN staff to the Governor for approval.	JH&FMHN staff
2.	Consider inmate requests to attend the external health services of a private medical practitioner.	Governor/ Authorised officer
3.	Consider security aspects before recommending any request.	Governor/ Authorised officer
4.	Obtain local intelligence holdings from the Intelligence officer for the correctional centre.	Governor/ Authorised officer
5.	Submit a request for information to the CIG If a full CIG assessment is required, submit a request through the Assistant Commissioner, Security and intelligence.	Governor/ Authorised officer
6.	Arrange for Security Operations Group (SOG) staff or custodial staff for the centre to inspect the surgery/practice, if necessary. A security assessment is to be provided and used by the escorting officer. If a security assessment by SOG is necessary, submit a request through the Assistant Commissioner, Security Intelligence. SOG will journal the cost of the assessment.	Governor/ Authorised officer
7.	Determine whether the attendance of the inmate at the nominated appointment with the private medical practitioner poses any threat to security and/or the community.	Governor/ Authorised officer
8.	Issue an order under section 24 of the <i>Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999</i> for the inmate to attend, if the application is approved (refer to COPP section 19.2 Movement orders and permits).	Governor/ Authorised officer
9.	Arrange for the inmate to be escorted to the appointment with the private medical practitioner at the nominated time and date.	Governor/ Authorised officer
10.	Direct JH&FMHN staff and CSNSW not to tell the inmate of the date and time of their appointment in advance.	Governor/ Authorised officer
11.	Advise private medical practitioner not to provide any details of the inmate's appointment, if they receive enquiries from friends or relatives.	Governor/ Authorised officer

	Procedure	Responsibility
12.	<p>Ensure that a section 24 order has been issued by the Governor, and if provided, all information contained in a security assessment report prepared by either SOG or correctional staff is noted.</p> <p>The escorting officer must enter the surgery/practice to review the area prior to escorting the inmate into the premises.</p>	Escorting officer
13.	Provide a written report to the Governor if an incident occurs during the escort.	Escorting officer

2 Quick links

- [Related COPP](#)
- [Forms and annexures](#)
- [Related documents](#)

3 Definitions

Authorised officer	The officer authorised by the Governor to perform the functions set out in this part of the Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures.
CIG	Corrections Intelligence Group
COPP	Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures
CSNSW	Corrective Services New South Wales
JH&FMHN	Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network
SOG	Security Operations Group

4 Document information

Business centre:	Custodial Operations	
Approver:	Kevin Corcoran	
Date of effect:	16 December 2017	
EDRMS container:	18/7259	
Version	Date	Reason for amendment
1.0		Initial publication (<i>Replaces section 7.7 of the superseded Operations Procedures Manual</i>)
1.1	12/03/20	General formatting update and improvements