



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DIRECTOR:

Wayne P. Salant Jr.

**POLICY
NUMBER:
18.00-2 DOC**

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:
06/07/2004**

**SUBJECT:
TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY AND
ACCESS TO CARE**

**LAST REVIEWED:
10/2025**

**SECTION:
HEALTH CARE**

**SUPERSEDES:
18.00-1 DOC**

AUTHORITY: Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-56-10 (22), Powers of the director

REFERENCES: NCCHC standards J-A- and P-A-01 (essential), Access to Care; ACA standard 3-4380-1, Scope of Services (discrimination prohibited)

INMATE/PUBLIC ACCESS: YES

AVAILABLE IN SPANISH: YES

I. PURPOSE:

To ensure **ALL** inmates of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) seeking medical care are treated with dignity.

II. POLICY:

- A. Inmates seeking medical attention have the status of patients, a term that is understood in the traditional, non-correctional health care setting. Accordingly, inmate patients are afforded the same dignity, privacy, and consideration for their health and well-being as patients in the community at large receive, subject to their security classification levels and the security needs of the institutions.
- B. Inmate patients have access to care to meet their serious medical, dental, and mental health needs without barriers, with the quality of that care meeting community standards.
- C. Inmate patients are not punished for seeking health care.

- D. Health Care Services staff do not permit unreasonable delays before an inmate patient is seen by a health care provider or consultant to obtain diagnostic work or treatment.
- E. Health care services are provided to all inmates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age, country of ancestral origin, political views or other status protected by law.

III. PROCEDURES:

- A. Health Care Services policies (the 18.00 series) establish guidelines for the basis of services provided to the inmate patient population.