

**Spartanburg County Detention Facility
Jail and Detention
Policies and Procedures**

Subject: Dental Services	Policy Number: 11.04
Issue Date: October 24, 2007	Revision Date: September 16, 2010
Approval Authority Title and Signature: Larry W. Powers, Director	

POLICY:

SPARTANBURG COUNTY IS AN AT WILL EMPLOYER AND NOTHING CONTAINED HEREIN CHANGES AND/OR ALTERS THAT RELATIONSHIP. THIS MANUAL IS NOT A CONTRACT EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED NOR DOES IT BIND THE COUNTY OR THE DEPARTMENT TO ANY SPECIFIC OR DEFINITE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT. THE DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE; DELETE; OR MODIFY THIS POLICY AT ANY TIME. ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE JAIL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE DIRECTOR WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PURSUANT TO COUNTY ORDINANCE #229.

Spartanburg County Detention Facility (hereafter referred to as the Jail or department) encourages inmates to exercise good dental hygiene by providing toothbrushes and cleaning paste, as well as access to emergency and essential dental services while they are incarcerated.

This policy is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer or employee's civil or criminal liability. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third parties. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of an internal complaint and corresponding discipline in a non-judicial administrative setting. Nothing contained herein is intended to create an enforceable right or a private right of action against the department; Spartanburg County; the Director; or its officers and staff. It is intended strictly for internal management purposes and does not create any third party rights to any member of the public; inmates/detainees; or their families.

PENOLOGICAL INTEREST:

The jail has a penological interest in maintaining health and encouraging improved hygiene among inmates. This includes reasonable and necessary emergency dental services.

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PROCEDURE:

Initial Screening on Admittance to Facility:

During the health assessment, admission staff will interview and as appropriate observe an inmate's teeth and gums to identify any gross abnormalities requiring referral to a trained medical diagnostician or dentist. If the reviewing medical professional determines that dental treatment is indicated to ensure the reasonable health of the inmate, the medical physician will write an order for the dental referral and the staff will schedule appointment.

Daily Maintenance of Teeth & Gums:

Inmates are encouraged to exercise good dental hygiene while they are incarcerated in this facility. As a part of this support, the facility provides toothbrushes and tooth paste to all inmates admitted into its custody and care from the commissary/canteen proceeds at no expense to the inmates. Inmates wishing to purchase a specific brand of toothpaste not furnished by the facility, but available from the commissary/canteen, may do so at their own expense; however, by doing so, they forfeit their access to the toothpaste furnished by the facility until such time as they no longer have any funds available to purchase their own. Inmates are not authorized to possess facility issued toothpaste and/or brushes should they elect to purchase their own via the canteen in an effort to conserve resources and supplies; to prevent the unnecessary accumulation of items due to limited space and storage; and to prevent inmates from accumulating items to sell and barter with other inmates in an effort to gain favor and/or exert authority over other inmates.

Security and medical staff encourage inmates to brush their teeth and rinse their mouths with water after eating, before bed, and after awakening in the morning.

Request for Medical Services:

A medical doctor oversees the dental programs of the jail as a part of regular medical services. Inmates may request attendance at sick call by completing the required request form. Additionally, officers and other staff members may recommend that an inmate attend sick call when conditions indicate the need for medical attention. Inmates in need of dental care or assessment will be referred by the jail's medical staff to an outside licensed dentist as appropriate.

Dental services are generally limited to extractions, except where the attending dentist medically and ethically determines that other procedures are more appropriate to ensure the health of the inmate and/or to save an otherwise healthy tooth. This may include, necessary reconstructive and dental appliance repair work, x-rays, and other procedures as may be determined medically appropriate by the attending dentist and/or other medical authority. Dental counseling will be provided by the attending licensed dentist as he/she deems appropriate.

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Dental care is provided under the direction of a licensed D.M.D., and referrals may be made to a qualified outside dental specialists by the licensed D.M.D. as he/she determines necessary and appropriate.

A fee may be charged to inmates for dental services and work. Inmates will not be charged for emergency extractions and/or fillings as determined necessary by the attending licensed dentist; however, inmates seeking elective dental care and/or other dental services of a non-emergency nature will have to incur all such expenses beyond that of an extraction and/or filling dependent on the attending dentist's recommendations. Under no circumstances will requests for braces for cosmetic purposes; "grills;" gold fillings; and/or other elective procedures be honored, even if the requesting inmate indicates that he/she will bear all of the costs. All requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Disclaimer: This policy as with all policies will be reviewed from time to time and is subject to change without notice. Nothing contained herein grants or expands any third party, inmate, inmate's family member, or employee's rights or standing to seek legal recourse nor does it create any enforceable right or private right of action against the department; Spartanburg County; the Director; or its officers and staff. This policy is to serve as a guide only and was developed in a good faith effort to comply with applicable state and federal law, and as such, has no punitive intent. Should any part be found unconstitutional, it shall not affect the remaining sections unless they too are found to be unconstitutional. **Nothing contained herein should be construed to expand, create, grant, or provide any rights beyond those as provided for under applicable state or federal law.**

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