
Health Care for Pregnant Inmates

904.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish prenatal and postpartum health care services for inmates who are pregnant. Services may include assistance recovering from the effects of potentially unhealthy lifestyles, which could include tobacco use, alcohol and drug abuse or addiction, and a lack of previous adequate medical care. Because of unhealthy lifestyle choices prior to incarceration, many inmate pregnancies are classified as high-risk. This policy is intended to protect the health of the pregnant inmate and her fetus.

904.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that a qualified health care professional should provide comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care for all pregnant inmates during their incarceration, which includes but is not limited to the following:

- Pregnancy testing
- Prenatal care, both routine and high-risk if needed
- Management of drug or alcohol addicted pregnant inmates
- Comprehensive counseling and assistance services
- Nutrition modification for term of pregnancy and lactation
- Birthing in an appropriate setting
- Postpartum care
- Family planning education and services
- Access to privately funded pregnancy alternative options
- Infant and Toddler Breast Milk Feeding Program (PC 4002.5)

A qualified health care professional shall provide counseling and information to pregnant inmates regarding planning for their unborn child (15 CCR 1206(f); Penal Code § 4023.5).

904.3 RESTRAINTS

An inmate known to be pregnant or in recovery after delivery shall not be restrained by the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body. The placement of properly applied handcuffs in front of the body is acceptable.

A pregnant woman in labor, during delivery, or in recovery after delivery, shall not be restrained by the wrists, ankles, or both, unless deemed necessary for the safety and security of the inmate, the staff, or the public.

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Restraints shall be removed when a professional who is currently responsible for the medical care of a pregnant inmate during a medical emergency, labor, delivery, or recovery after delivery determines that the removal of restraints is medically necessary.

Upon confirmation of a female inmate's pregnancy, she shall be advised, orally or in writing, of the standards and policies governing pregnant inmates, including, but not limited to the provisions of this chapter, the relevant regulations, and the correctional facility policies.

The Watch Commander shall be notified immediately if restraints are removed and an incident report shall be generated at the earliest convenience by the deputy

904.3.1 REQUIRED PROCEDURES

The health authority shall, in cooperation with the Captain, develop procedures in conformance with Penal Code § 3407 for the application and removal of restraints on pregnant inmates. The procedures shall be reviewed and updated at least every two years (15 CCR 1206).

904.4 ABORTIONS

Inmates who wish to terminate their pregnancy shall be referred to outside counseling services for further information regarding available options. The Office shall not impede the woman's access to abortion counseling or services, and shall provide necessary transportation and supervision to such services. Any financial obligations will be the responsibility of the inmate. These rights will be posted in all areas that house female inmates (Penal Code § 4028).

904.5 INFANT AND TODDLER BREAST FEEDING PROGRAM

1. Any inmate who is incarcerated that is either breast feeding or actively lactating will be referred to Wellpath personnel should the inmate request to continue expressing breast milk for an infant or toddler in accordance with California Penal Code Section 4002.5.
2. Lactating inmates will have the option of using a manual breast pump, which is issued by Wellpath personnel. Family members may make arraignments with facility personnel to furnish an electric breast pump; however, those devices will be inspected by facility personnel prior to receiving Wellpath approval for use within the facility. Inmates will not be allowed to possess either a manual or electric breast pump in their cell or housing unit without watch commander approval.
3. Personnel should make every effort to ensure the inmate will be provided a private location to use the breast pump.
4. The breast milk will be pumped into clean breast milk bags or bottles and retrieved by medical staff who will label with the date and time of the pumping. After pumping, the pump will be cleaned with soap and hot water after each use.
5. The breast milk will be placed in a freezer in the Medical unit and it will be the responsibility of the infant's guardian to pick up the milk within 7 days. Milk not retrieved within 7 days will be discarded of. The infant's guardian will be responsible for signing the Wellpath Commitment for Transfer of Breast milk form to acknowledge their responsibility to pick up the breast milk. Guardians will not be permitted inside

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the facility, but will be required to verify their identify. Identity can be verified with a valid governmental identification card, driver's license or passport. Any other forms of identification will be reviewed by the watch commander.

6. Wellpath personnel will provide the inmate with the necessary education to support them in the infant and toddler breast feeding program. This education may include but is not limited to the following:
 - A. Washing their hands with soap and water prior to pumping
 - B. Cleaning the pump with soap and hot water after each use
 - C. Notify staff upon completion of pumping so milk can be collected and frozen
 - D. The importance of maintaining a healthy diet
7. Wellpath personnel should also provide medically appropriate support and care related to the cessation of lactation and weaning
8. Wellpath personnel will have procedures in place for conditioning an inmate's participation in the program upon the inmate undergoing drug screening