Chapter 4.5: **Detention Facility Health Care**	Subject: **Non-Emergency Medical Care**	Policy #: **4.506**	Number of Pages: **3**
Initial Effective Date: **January 1, 2013**	Revision Date: **January 1, 2013**	Approved by: **Jack V. Duncan, Sheriff**	

GENERAL STATEMENT:

The Buncombe County Detention Facility has developed policies and procedures for processing inmate requests for health services. Requests for non-emergency medical care coming to the attention of any Detention Officer will be referred to qualified Health Care Personnel for evaluation and necessary treatment.

This policy is to assure that all inmates have the daily opportunity to request and obtain timely access to health care personnel in seeking medical assistance and that their requests are documented, reviewed and appropriately acted upon by qualified health care personnel through triage and/or immediate referral to the physician, physician's extender or designee.

REFERENCES:

10A NCAC 14J .1001, .1209; NCGS 153A-225; NCCHC J-E-07; ACA 4-ALDF-4C-01, 02, 03

INFORMATION:

1. The Facility shall provide scheduled access to health services. There shall be an established system through which each inmate is able to report for and receive appropriate health services for non-emergency illness or injury regardless of their custodial status.
2. No inmate will be denied access to medical treatment.
3. The Medical Staff will make all determinations as to an inmate's medical condition and referrals for treatment.
4. Indigent inmates will be provided sick call at no charge.
5. Each inmate will, upon arrival to the Facility receive verbal and written instructions as to how to obtain health care services.
6. All inmates will have the opportunity to seek medical assistance daily during regularly scheduled sick call.
7. All inmate health complaints shall be referred promptly to health care personnel in accordance with policy and procedures.
8. The Responsible Health Entity shall develop procedures for daily and timely triaging of inmate health care complaints by qualified personnel as designated by the Medical Director or designee.

9. If the inmate needs further evaluation his/her medical record is obtained and the inmate will be seen later that day for further evaluation and treatment by the physician or physician's extender.

PROCEDURE:

I. Non-Emergency Medical Care

A. Inmates will be allowed an opportunity to communicate their health concerns to a Detention Officer at any time.

B. With the inmate's permission, the appropriate Detention Officer will document the request of the inmate's medical concerns by making a data entry in the Sick Call Module of the Jail Management System.

C. Each morning the Medical Staff runs a daily report for all sick calls and schedules the inmates to be brought to the Medical Unit in coordination with the Medical Liaison Officer for inmate movement. On the weekends and holidays, when the Medical Liaison Officer is not available, the inmate movement is completed by a Shift Supervisor or Detention Officer.

D. Sick call will be conducted in a clinical setting by qualified medical personnel.

E. Inmates may also request health services by completing an Inmate Request Form which is forwarded to Medical to request mental health services or for testing and education of communicable diseases.

F. The Sick Call Report and Inmate Request Forms are reviewed daily and referred and/or scheduled for health care/sick call as appropriate.

G. Detention Officers will be attentive to inmates for the possibility of medical needs and will record and pass on any concerns to their Shift Supervisor.

H. Inmates will be charged a nominal triage fee for non-emergency medical care in accordance with NCGS 153A-225. A debit will be recorded against the inmate's fund account.

I. Non-emergency medical care will not be denied to indigent inmates.

J. The Facility Fiscal Control Officer will determine if an inmate meets the definition to be classified as indigent.

K. A debit will be waived for indigent inmates for any triage fee for non-emergency medical care.

Comment: *Gender Reference in Buncombe County Sheriff's Office 'Policy Manual', such as "he,"*

"his," "she," "hers" etc., may refer equally to either the male or female gender.

This policy and procedure is for internal use only, and does not enlarge a deputy's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims.

Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.