

Chapter: Hospital and Ambulatory Specialty Care and Services	Effective Date: 4/1/14
Title: Protheses and Orthotic Devices	Page: 1 of 2
ACA: 4-JCF-4C-20	Replaces: HSP.05.06, 6/1/09

(a) **Standard.**

Medical and dental adaptive devices are provided for a youth if, in the opinion of the provider, such prostheses are essential to restore normal bodily function or when the health of the youth would otherwise be adversely affected. Adaptive devices are provided pursuant to examination and recommendation by a specialist provider and a written order by the facility provider. Unusual or serious conditions requiring orthoses or prostheses are reviewed by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and University of Texas Medical Branch – Correctional Managed Care (UTMB) medical directors.

(b) **Procedures for Youth with Visual Impairments.**

- (1) All youth receive a visual acuity screening upon intake and in the birth month of their 12th, 15th, and 18th birthday or as needed if the youth reports a visual complaint.
- (2) Youth with prescribed eyeglasses are screened annually.
- (3) The medical provider and/or nursing staff refer youth with visual acuity of 20/40 or worse in either eye to optometry services for evaluation regarding the need for eyeglasses.
- (4) Infirmiry staff issues eyeglasses to youth on a prescription basis.
- (5) Youth eyeglasses received from the contracted provider may not contain any metal, wire, or other removable parts. Personal eyewear is prohibited in institutions. Contact lenses are prohibited in institutions unless medically necessary and prescribed by a provider.
- (6) Nursing staff reports any misuse of youth eyeglasses to the provider, the youth's case manager, the superintendent, and the youth's parent or guardian.

(c) **Procedures for Youth with Hearing Impairments.**

- (1) All youth receive a hearing screening upon intake and in the birth month of their 12th, 15th, and 18th birthday or as needed if the youth reports a hearing complaint.
- (2) Youth who are prescribed a hearing aid are screened annually or as prescribed.
- (3) Nursing staff refer youth who fail two hearing tests to the facility provider. The provider determines the need for further evaluation by an audiologist.
- (4) An audiologist provides hearing aids to youth on a prescription basis.
- (5) The nursing staff reports any misuse of youth hearing aids to the provider, the youth's case manager, the superintendent, and the youth's parent or guardian.

(d) **Procedures for Youth Requiring a Wheelchair and/or Crutches.**

- (1) The nursing staff provides wheelchairs and/or crutches per nursing assessment protocol or direct provider order for youth who need the devices for a prolonged period of time.
- (2) The infirmiry staff notifies direct care staff that the youth has been prescribed a wheelchair and/or crutches and documents the notification in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

- (3) Wheelchairs may be used without a prescription for any acute condition that requires immediate transportation of a youth by TJJD staff to or from the infirmary.

(e) **Procedures for Youth with Orthotic Braces.**

- (1) The nursing staff provides orthotic braces to youth based upon a medical provider order.
 - (2) The infirmary staff notifies direct care staff that the youth has been prescribed an orthotic brace and documents the notification in the EMR.
 - (3) Orthotic braces for youth should not contain metal if at all possible.
 - (4) The use of an orthotic brace is subject to UTMB utilization review. The TJJD and UTMB medical directors review disagreements between correctional and medical staff regarding the need for an orthotic brace.
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