

Chapter: Rules for State-Operated Programs and Facilities Subchapter: Program Services Division: Health Care Services Rule: Infirmery Admission and Discharge ACA: 4-JCF-4C-21 Statutes: N/A	Effective Date: 4/15/15 Page: 1 of 2 Replaces: GAP.380.9186, 8/1/09
--	--

RULE

(a) **Purpose.**

This rule establishes conditions and procedures for youth to be admitted to and discharged from infirmaries in Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) facilities.

(b) **General Provisions.**

- (1) Nursing care will be provided in the infirmery at each institution through contract health care staff for youth who do not need hospitalization but who need increased observation or medical care. Infirmery admissions are utilized for youth who are acutely ill, injured, medically compromised due to mental health decompensation, or recovering from surgery or illness.
- (2) Juvenile correctional officers shall supervise youth admitted to the infirmery at all times.
- (3) Only nursing staff may receive medical orders from the medical provider.

(c) **Infirmery Admission for Medical Diagnosis.**

- (1) The medical provider or health services administrator or designee determines if a youth requires observation or treatment for a medical diagnosis or condition.
- (2) The health services administrator or registered nurse designee may admit a youth to the infirmery for a medical diagnosis or condition for up to 24 hours. Only a medical provider may authorize admission to the infirmery for 24 hours or longer.
- (3) Only a medical provider may discharge the youth if the youth:
 - (A) was admitted to the infirmery for 24 hours or longer; or
 - (B) was admitted by a medical provider for any length of time.
- (4) A nurse or medical provider may discharge the youth if he/she was admitted to the infirmery by a nurse.

(d) **Infirmery Admission for Psychiatric Monitoring.**

- (1) A psychiatrist or physician, if readily available, may admit a youth to the infirmery for close observation and/or monitoring after a psychiatric-related incident. The designated mental health professional may authorize the admission when a psychiatrist or medical provider is not readily available. The nurse will immediately notify the psychiatrist, or a physician if a psychiatrist is not available, and document the notification and any order/instructions in the electronic medical record. Psychiatrist or physician orders shall be obtained for youth admitted to the infirmery within two hours of admission.
- (2) In obtaining psychiatrist or physician orders for youth experiencing a psychiatric crisis, nursing staff provides the psychiatrist relevant medical information such as current medications, vital signs, subjective or objective data (e.g., laboratory values), observations, and assessment. The psychiatrist or physician order includes instructions regarding any observations that nursing staff must make about the youth's mental status, as well as instructions for any other type of monitoring or medications that are to be administered.

- (3) A Ph.D. level psychologist or psychologist associate (if a Ph.D. level is not available) evaluates the youth at least once a day.
 - (4) Disposition (discharge or referral) is made by the psychiatrist or physician.
-
-

See [HSP.04.10](#) for implementation procedures.