

**Chapter: Unimpeded Access to Care**  
**Title: Criteria for Care**

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**Page:** 1 of 2  
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ACA Standard(s): 3-JCRF-4C-02

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(a) **Standard.**

The criteria for providing care to youth in agency halfway houses are established by the TYC medical director and are found in GAP.91.83. The responsible physician or dentist shall have final responsibility for decisions related to medical/dental judgments at the respective facility.

(b) **Procedure.**

(1) **Criteria for Providing Medical Care.**

- (A) The physician will provide primary medical care according to the following criteria established by the agency medical director.
  - (i) Life saving treatment
  - (ii) Limb saving treatment
  - (iii) Reasonable care to relieve pain
  - (iv) Reasonable care for a degenerative condition
- (B) The responsible physician will develop the youth's medical treatment plan.

(2) **Criteria for Providing Dental Care.**

- (A) The responsible dentist will assure equitable access to basic preventive services and essential treatment procedures based upon the occurrence of disease, significant malfunction, or injury. Priority of treatment categories are:
  - (i) Emergency/urgent – Treatment for conditions which will worsen or become life-threatening or acute without immediate intervention.
  - (ii) Interceptive – Intermediate treatment for asymptomatic advanced hard or soft tissue disease or loss of masticatory function.
  - (iii) Rehabilitative – Definitive treatment for chronic hard or soft tissue disease or loss of masticatory function.
  - (iv) Elective or special needs.
- (B) The attending dentist may vary from this prioritization on an individual basis if judged to be necessary for the protection of the youth's overall health.
- (C) TYC will provide for necessary care to orthodontic braces to prevent injury to the mouth. Consultations, maintenance appointments, and treatment will be arranged and paid for by the parent/guardian after notification of TYC policy. TYC staff will assist in making appointments and providing transportation for orthodontic care.

(3) **Criteria for Providing Psychiatric Care.**

- (A) The psychiatrist or mid-level provider will provide an appropriately comprehensive psychiatric evaluation of referred youth, including review of prior treatment, when:
  - (i) a youth has been identified during admission as being currently prescribed psychotropic medication;

- (ii) a youth's psychological evaluation shows the need for a psychiatric referral;
- (iii) a youth has been assigned a minimum length of stay of 12 months or longer; or
- (iv) the MDT, in collaboration with the youth, determines that a psychiatric referral is indicated.

(B) Psychiatric providers will provide medically appropriate psychiatric treatment for evaluated youth in keeping with the current clinical standards of care.

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