	CORRECTIONS MEDICINE **Infirmary Levels of Care** **ACA Standard: 4 ALDF – 4C – 09**	
Saint Louis COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH	Effective: December 2016 Revised: March 2017, July 2018, May 2019, July 2019 Reviewed:	Policy Number: CM – 52

I. **PURPOSE:** To ensure patients are seen by providers at the appropriate intervals of time based on their acuity.

II. **POLICY:** All patients housed in the Infirmary shall be admitted to the Infirmary at the highest level of care and will be reassigned a level of care based on their medical condition and acuity after being seen by a provider. Providers will determine which patients are seen and how often based on their assigned level of care.

III. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All staff working in the Corrections Medicine program are responsible for the contents and adherence to this policy and procedure.

IV. **PROCEDURES:**

A. General Information

1. All patients newly admitted to the infirmary will be given a Level 1 acuity and must be seen on the next business day by a provider.

2. All patients shall be assigned a level of care throughout their infirmary stay as described below. The provider is responsible for changing a patient's level of care. A provider must see a patient to change their level of care and the provider must document the order in the patient's chart.

3. Nursing staff may increase the level of acuity and request a patient be seen sooner than scheduled. Only a provider can decrease level of care.

4. If a patient refuses to see a provider, the patient must sign a refusal for care.

5. If a patient misses an appointment due to court or an outside appointment, this must be documented in the electronic medical record (EMR) and the patient must be rescheduled for the following business day.

6. Infirmary patients must have an admitting assessment by a provider recorded in their chart at their first Infirmary provider visit.

7. An admission assessment form shall be completed by a registered nurse upon the patient's arrival to the Infirmary within the eight (8) hour shift.

8. All patients who are transferred to the Infirmary must have a transfer form completed in the EMR.

9. If patients are transferred to the Infirmary by Department of Justice Services (DJS) staff, they are considered to be a medical patient or a psychiatric patient until they are seen by a provider.

10. A provider shall make the determination whether or not the patient has a medical or psychiatric illness requiring housing in the Infirmary. The provider shall write an order to admit or release the patient from the Infirmary. If the patient is released, the patient may be moved out of the infirmary when DJS staff has an appropriate classification cell.

B. Medical Infirmary Levels of Care
   1. Providers shall determine which patients need to be seen based on the following criteria:
      a. **Level 1:** Patients with acute medical conditions requiring daily monitoring and ongoing care by a medical provider.

      b. **Level 2:** Patients with improved medical conditions are to be seen by a medical provider three (3) times per week.

      c. **Level 3:** Patient's with stable medical conditions and infrequent changes in their medical condition requiring minimal care should be seen weekly by a medical provider.

      d. **Level 4:** Patients who are admitted to the Infirmary for reasons other than medical care are to be seen bimonthly by a Medical Provider.

C. Psychiatric Infirmary
   1. The mental health provider will determine which patients need to be seen based on the following criteria:

      a. **Level 1:** Patients who are on high risk for self-harm or harm to others are to be seen daily by a mental health provider.

      b. **Level 2:** Patients who are on medium risk for self-harm or harm to others are to be seen 3 (three) times weekly by a mental health provider.

      c. **Level 3:** Patients who are on precautionary status self-harm or harm to others are to be seen weekly by a mental health provider.

   2. All patients admitted to the infirmary for an acute mental health status change must be seen by a medical provider and a mental health provider.