



San Bernardino County Sheriff Health Services Division Operational Policy and Procedure Manual

Section: 14.0 Special Circumstances

Policy and Procedure: 14.9 Contraception and Sterilization

Effective Date: 12/31/22

Revision Date: 6/26/25

Affiliated Standards, Statutes, and Regulations:

SBSD Policy: 17.860.20

NCCHC: J-B-06

Title 15: 1206, 1208, 1210

***Revisions to Previous Policy 314.3 Contraception and Sterilization**

Purpose: To ensure that female patients are provided with nondirective and supportive counseling on pregnancy prevention, including access to emergency contraception. This policy also aims to ensure that no elective sterilization procedures are completed for male or female patients while in custody.

Applicability: Qualified Health Professionals (QHP), Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHP), and custody staff

Responsibility: Health Services Administrator, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Psychiatric Officer, Supervisor II Committee, and Custody Administration as applicable.

Policy: **Counseling & Contraception:** Sheriff's Health Services must provide nondirective and supportive counseling to female patients regarding pregnancy prevention, including access to emergency contraception.

Contraceptive Continuation: Female patients who are already using contraception at intake should be considered for the continuation of their birth control methods.

Sterilization Procedures: Sheriff's Health Services will not perform elective sterilizations (for either male or female patients) while in custody.

Procedure: **A. Identifying Patients:**

1. Booking/Intake Questions: During the booking/intake process, female patients will be asked about the following on the Receiving Screening form:

- Whether they are pregnant.
- Whether they are utilizing contraception or in need of emergency contraception

2. Elective Sterilization Requests:

- Elective sterilization will not be offered, verbally or in writing, to any patient while in custody.



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- If a patient requests elective sterilization, they will be provided with education that such procedures are not performed in custody as required by state law.
- Patients will be educated to self-refer to a provider of their choice for reproductive health care decisions.

B. Birth Control & Contraception Continuation:

1. Birth Control Medications at Intake:

- QHP will check for any birth control medication that the patient has in their possession at intake.
- If appropriate, the medication will be placed on the patient's property and referred to a provider (record check or sick call) for review and discussion.

2. Continuing Birth Control:

- If a patient wishes to continue using birth control as prescribed by their physician, they may submit a Health Services Request form.
- QHP will evaluate the request and begin shared decision-making regarding continuation of medication, as deemed appropriate.

3. Emergency Contraception:

- Female patients in custody will have access to emergency contraception, when clinically indicated.

4. Continuation of Contraception for Medical Reasons:

- If a female patient is using hormonal contraception for reasons other than contraception (e.g., for medical treatment), the patient will be allowed to continue using that method while incarcerated or be provided with an equivalent method.

5. Family Planning and Future Contraception:



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- Female patients of reproductive age will have the opportunity to discuss their future pregnancy desires (either to prevent or to become pregnant) with a QHP.
- QHPs will provide family planning resources, either before release or in the form of educational information to community resources.

6. Access to Contraception upon Release:

- QHPs can facilitate access to family planning services and provide educational information for community resources upon the patient's release.

Definitions: *For the context of this policy, the following definitions apply:*

QMHP: MH RN, MH Clinician, MH Provider who by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience are permitted by law to evaluate and care for patients.

QHP (Qualified Healthcare Professional): includes physicians, physicians assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentist, and other who by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience are permitted by law to evaluate and care for patients.

EHR: Electronic Health Record

PMD: Primary Medical Doctor

References:

Title 15: <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Final-regulation-Text-2023.04.01-Clean-Copy-for-Web.pdf>

SBSD Policy: 17.860.20 Detention and Corrections Bureau Policy and Procedure

National Commission on Correctional Health Care. (2018). *NCCHC standards for health services in jails* (2018 ed.). National Commission on Correctional Health Care.



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<u>Reviewed and approved by</u>	<u>Signature and Date</u>
<u>Health Services Administrator</u> 1. Sara Manning (HSA)	<i>Sara Manning</i> 6/26/25
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