



## Office of Legislative Corrections Ombudsman

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### Health Care Co-payments

The following is based on Michigan Department of Corrections Policy Directive 03.04.101 entitled "Prisoner Health Care Copayment."

#### General information

As outlined in Policy Directive 03.04.100 "Health Services," prisoners may report health problems to medical staff at their facility and receive diagnoses and appropriate treatment. However, there will be a \$5.00 co-pay charge for each medical, dental and optometric visit.

Only one fee is charged per visit, regardless of how many symptoms are addressed during the visit. Prisoners, their family, and friends are reminded that in most instances, prisoners are required to pay co-pays for health services they receive while incarcerated. There are a few exceptions, which are outlined below.

#### Exceptions

1. Prisoners are not required to pay the co-pay for health care visits initiated by a qualified health professional or required by the Department of Corrections. This includes transfer assessments, intake and annual health screenings, and required follow-up care.
2. Prisoners are required to pay the \$5.00 co-pay for **any visit** initiated by the prisoner, *no matter how long the prisoner has been treated for the medical condition*. There are four exceptions to this rule. The prisoner does not have to pay the co-pay, even if the visit is requested by the prisoner, if the visit is for:
  - a. A work-related injury documented by the prisoner's work supervisor;
  - b. Prisoner is being tested for HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, infestations, or reportable communicable diseases;
  - c. An evaluation, consultation, or treatment of a mental health need; or
  - d. A medical emergency which results in the prisoner receiving, or being referred to receive, emergency medical care within one hour. If the emergency is due to an intentional self-inflicted injury, the prisoner is responsible for the full cost of the medical care provided.

## **Assessment of Charges**

1. Prisoners must use the Prisoner Request for Health Care Services (CHR-549) to request a health care visit. A prisoner's signature on the form serves as the prisoner's agreement to pay the charged fee and have the funds removed from his/her account.
2. If a prisoner refuses to sign the form, the prisoner will still be provided necessary health care services. However, a hearing will be conducted according to Policy Directive 04.02.105 "Prisoner Funds" to determine if the funds should be removed from the prisoner's account.