

March 30, 2020

To: All Dentists working in correctional facilities in the province of Alberta

From: Dr. Keith Courtney, Facilities Medical Director for Correctional Health Services

DENTAL TREATMENT IN THE ALBERTA PROVINCIAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
DURING COVID-19

1. In line with the March 28, 2020 Alberta Dental Association & College Guidelines on Emergency Treatment, dentists are to manage only emergency cases in the corrections facilities at this time.
 - a. The Alberta Dental Association and College defines emergency dental treatment as treatment of oral-facial trauma, significant infection, prolonged bleeding or pain which cannot be managed by over-the-counter medications.
2. Please follow these recommendations for screening patients in the correctional facilities.
 - a. Prior to your scheduled clinic, please review patients on your dentist list. Review can consist of either or both of the following:
 - i. Call the correctional facility and review the patients that you will be seeing with the charge nurse.
 - ii. Review physical chart of those patients who are on dentist list.
 - b. If, in your clinical judgment, the case is not an emergency, please limit contact care and provide any needed recommendations, e.g. antibiotics/analgesics, and recommendations for follow-up.
 - c. If, in your clinical judgement the patient requires physical assessment onsite at the correctional facility, then proceed to do so.
 - d. When you see the patient for physical assessment, please personally screen the patient one more time before initiating contact care with the patient.
 - i. If the patient expresses any symptoms that concern you please do not initiate treatment and notify the healthcare staff.

- ii. If after physical assessment, in your clinical judgement, you determine that the case is not an emergency, please limit contact care and provide any needed recommendations, e.g. antibiotics/analgesics, and recommendations for follow-up
- iii. If you determine contact care is necessary please follow PPE and IPC protocols as recommended by your professional college.

Alberta Dental Association & College Guidelines on Emergency Treatment

<https://www.dentalhealthalberta.ca/covid-19-info/dental-emergency-protocol/>

Alberta Dental Association & College COVID-19 Dental Emergency Protocol

<https://www.dentalhealthalberta.ca/covid-19-info/guidelines-on-emergency-treatment-2/>

