

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: Health and Biometric Monitoring of Incarcerated Persons **H-1600**

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
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APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Joel Swanson

REFERENCE: DPPM P-600, DBPPM C-200, DBPPM B-700

POLICY

The Kern County Sheriff's Office utilizes the OverWatch™ biometric monitoring system to enhance the supervision of incarcerated persons identified as at risk for medical emergencies or self-harm. The system provides continuous, real-time biometric monitoring, and serves as a supplemental Artificial Intelligence safety tool. The OverWatch™ biometric monitoring system does not replace routine safety checks or medical supervision.

Biometric monitoring devices shall be applied to all incarcerated persons under the following circumstances:

- Any incarcerated person medical personnel identify as an increased risk for alcohol or drug withdrawal.
- Any incarcerated person medical personnel have identified with substantial health concern warranting continuous monitoring.
- Any incarcerated persons on safety precaution or suicide watch observation who Correctional Behavioral Health requested continuous monitoring of.

DEFINITION:

Monitoring Bracelet: Band containing a sensor to monitor vital signs which is worn on the wrist or ankle of an incarcerated person.

Monitoring Device: Device that receives data from a monitoring bracelet and displays it on a screen.

OverWatch™: A biometric monitoring system that collects and transmits data related to heart rate, blood oxygen saturation, skin temperature, motion, and other activity indicators. This system is not intended for diagnostic use and is designed to assist staff in responding to potential medical concerns.

Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS): Process used by a qualified health care professional (QHP) to assess the stage or severity of opiate withdrawal and treatment.

Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment (CIWA): Process used by a qualified health care professional (QHP) to assess the severity of alcohol withdrawal symptoms, risk of complication, and treatment.

Qualified Health Care Professional (QHP): A licensed medical provider authorized to assess and treat incarcerated individuals.

Suicide Watch: A high-level suicide prevention measure requiring safety checks at random intervals, at least twice every thirty (30) minutes, and not to exceed 15 minutes between safety checks documented on a log for individuals presenting immediate and high risk of self-harm (e.g., engaging in self-injurious behaviors or threatening suicide with a specific plan). Suicide Watch also includes directives from Correctional Behavioral Health (CBH) that may place the incarcerated person in a safety smock, limit allowable property, and dictate housing, such as a safety cell or a suicide-resistant observation cell, if necessary to ensure the safety of the incarcerated person. Individuals on suicide watch may also be placed on constant observation for their safety.

Suicide Precaution: A precautionary measure involving safety checks at random intervals at least once every thirty (30) minutes documented in a logbook for individuals assessed to be at a moderate risk of self-harm (e.g., expressing a wish to die without a specific plan, recent/prior history of self-injurious behaviors, or exhibiting significant risk factors). Safety Precautions should be carried out in suicide resistant observation cells.

Medical Recommendation: A verbal or written recommendation by licensed medical or behavioral health staff identifying an individual as potentially benefiting from biometric monitoring due to medical or psychological risk.

Alert Notification: A system-generated notification indicating a significant change in biometric data that may require immediate staff response.

PROCEDURE A: DETOX IDENTIFICATION

Any incarcerated person identified for alcohol or drug withdrawal shall be assessed by a Qualified Health Care Professional (QHP) during booking. The QHP will determine if the incarcerated person should be monitored for detox protocol and housed on observation for COWS/CIWA assessment. The QHP will also make a recommendation for the use of a monitoring bracelet. Once QHP determines an incarcerated person should be housed

on observation for COWS/CIWA assessment and makes a recommendation for the use of a monitoring bracelet, the housing deputy shall be notified.

Deputies will:

- Notify the Classification Unit and rehouse the incarcerated person according to the QHP's recommendation.
- Complete a Jail Management System (JMS) Incident Report using incident code 4102: Health Monitoring Placement.

Note: The report will include the time of placement, the QHP making the recommendation for placement, and the shift supervisor notified of placement.

PROCEDURE B: HEALTH MONITORING PLACEMENT

Following any recommendation by a QHP or Correctional Behavioral Health professional for placing an incarcerated person on health monitoring, the incarcerated person will complete the booking process. Once the booking procedure is completed, the Classification Unit will house the incarcerated person in the Pre-Trial Facility Infirmary, Justice Inmate Receiving Center, Justice Facility Infirmary, C Module Direct Observation Unit (DOU), or A-Module Units 1-3 for observation. In the event housing is not available, a QHP will determine if an incarcerated person currently on health monitoring observation may safely transition to a regular housing unit to allow placement of a newly booked individual. Any incarcerated person housed on health monitoring observation shall remain there until a QHP has cleared them to be removed from the health monitoring rehoused and assigned to appropriate housing.

PROCEDURE C: DEVICE ASSIGNMENT, ACTIVATION, AND PLACEMENT

Prior to placement of a health monitoring device, a QHP will conduct a medical assessment of the incarcerated person. Following the assessment, the deputy will determine the appropriate placement of the monitoring bracelet on the incarcerated person. Only Detentions personnel are authorized to place a monitoring bracelet onto an incarcerated person. The incarcerated person shall not be made to wear the monitoring bracelet, and force shall not be used to apply it. Any refusal by an incarcerated person to have a monitoring device applied shall have a medical refusal form completed and documented in a JMS report.

The Shift Supervisor will follow the recommendation of the QHP to place or remove the incarcerated person from health monitoring unless there are specific, articulable, and documented reasons to deviate from the recommendation that the QHP may not be aware of.

Following assignment of the monitoring bracelet, the deputy will be required to enter the incarcerated person's information into the preset tabs on the tablet associated with the monitoring bracelet to activate it.

The following should be considered for placement of the health monitoring device:

- If the wrist is too slim for application, the monitoring bracelet must be applied on the incarcerated person's ankle to prevent it from slipping off.
- The monitoring bracelet must be tightly secured around the wrist or ankle allowing for only one finger spacing between the band and the wrist/ankle.
- Ensure it is applied to the healthiest part of the skin free of abrasions, lesions, or areas of swelling.
- As a precaution, the light refraction could be altered if placed on part of the skin having dark tattoos.
- The monitoring bracelet shall not be placed on the same wrist as their wristband.

Once the monitoring bracelet has been activated and placed on the incarcerated person, they may be placed into their assigned cell.

PROCEDURE D: MONITORING

Monitoring bracelets are intended to alert staff when there may be a medical emergency, specifically while the incarcerated person is sleeping or not actively engaged with another person. While the incarcerated person is wearing the monitoring bracelet, their vitals including heart rate, oxygen saturation levels, temperature, and movement will be monitored. If any of these vitals changes above or below a set threshold, the tablet or monitoring device located at the deputy's workstation will sound an alert and the incarcerated person's icon will turn red.

Staff assigned to the Pre-Trial Infirmary, Justice Infirmary, A-Module Control, and C-Module Control will monitor the status of all monitoring bracelets placed on an incarcerated person housed in their respective facility via a tablet or other monitoring device located at their workstation. The following procedures apply:

- The icon associated with monitoring bracelets and incarcerated person should remain green. If the icon turns orange or red, the deputy will determine the issue and work with a QHP to address any problems.
- At the start of each shift staff will check the battery life of each sensor assigned to an incarcerated person wearing a monitoring bracelet. The sensor batteries are

rated to last approximately ten days. If the battery life is under 15%, the deputy shall replace the sensor in the monitoring bracelet with a fully charged sensor.

When an alert is observed, the staff will:

- If the monitoring staff are able to respond (e.g., infirmary deputy), they shall respond directly to the incarcerated person's cell and determine if there is a medical emergency.
- If staff are unable to respond or the alert occurs in another location (e.g., control staff or Infirmary Staff observes alert in receiving) immediately announce over the radio: "Medical Bracelet Alert, (Cell/Location).
- In the event of a medical emergency, the responding deputy shall broadcast a "Medical Priority" in the cell where the emergency is occurring and request the response of QHPs and additional sworn staff if needed.
- If the deputy determines that there is not an emergency and there are no medical concerns with the incarcerated person, a QHP shall be consulted with and the deputy, at the direction of the QHP, shall reset the alert on the tablet or other monitoring device using the "Reset Alert" button.

PROCEDURE E: INCARCERATED PERSON MOVEMENT

When an incarcerated person with a monitoring bracelet is transported outside of an approved housing location, (i.e. court, visiting, scheduled off-site appointments, etc.), they will not be monitored. The monitoring bracelet will reconnect once the incarcerated person returns to the assigned housing unit.

Deputies will coordinate with medical staff to determine whether an incarcerated person scheduled for a medical appointment needs to have the bracelet removed prior to transport (e.g. surgical procedures, diagnostic imaging that restrict electronic devices, or appointments likely to result in hospital admission).

If an incarcerated person is admitted to the hospital during a scheduled appointment, the Shift Supervisor will assign a deputy to respond to the hospital to retrieve the monitoring bracelet.

When an incarcerated person is transported to the hospital for an unscheduled appointment, the monitoring bracelet will be removed, and the "stop monitoring" button will be pushed on the tablet and/or monitoring device.

PROCEDURE F: REMOVAL FROM HEALTH MONITORING

A monitoring bracelet should be removed whenever an incarcerated person is released from custody or a QHP has made the decision to remove the incarcerated person from health monitoring and cleared them for rehousing. Any decision made by a QHP to

remove an incarcerated person from the detox protocol and to be rehoused shall be documented in a JMS supplemental report by the deputy receiving the recommendation from the QHP.

Detentions staff shall be the only persons authorized to remove a monitoring bracelet from an incarcerated person. The keys for the monitoring bracelets will be installed in the Pre-Trial Infirmary, Justice Infirmary, IRC Supervisors Office, A-Module, and C-Module.

Whenever a monitoring bracelet is removed, the staff will push the “stop monitoring” button on the tablet and/or monitoring device. The deputy shall sanitize the monitoring bracelet with approved disinfectant wipe. After the monitoring bracelet has been disinfected, the deputy will place the monitoring bracelet on the charger in the charging station installed at their workstation.

PROCEDURE G: DAMAGED MONITORING BRACELET

If an incarcerated person damages a monitoring bracelet, the deputy will:

- Notify the shift supervisor.
- Document in a JMS incident report for any incarcerated person who maliciously damages, destroys, or defaces a monitoring bracelet using JMS code MJ13: Health Monitoring Device Damage.

Damaged monitoring bracelets shall be sent to the Inmate Services Section Administrative Sergeant for repair or replacement.