New Standards Now Available

The 2018 editions of NCCHC’s *Standards for Health Services* for jails and prisons have been revised, reorganized and simplified to further enhance their usefulness.

First published in the 1970s, NCCHC’s nationally recognized *Standards* are continually updated to reflect the evolution of industry best practices. Each revision guides the field toward ongoing quality improvement in delivering health care services and meeting professional, legal and ethical requirements.

The new editions have been organized into seven sections instead of nine. Most of the standards from former sections F (Health Promotion), H (Health Records) and I (Medical-Legal Issues), for instance, have been consolidated and/or relocated. In addition, there are numerous changes and new concepts within each section. Introductory descriptions explain the intent of each section, and compliance indicators for individual standards provide more specific detail on what is required to be in compliance.

As health administrators update policies and procedures to align with the changes, each standard should be addressed in the policy manual. To help users identify which standards have been combined and/or relocated, the introductory section of the manuals includes two tables that detail those changes.

In working on the new editions over the past several years, NCCHC received many excellent comments and suggestions from both experts and everyday users of the *Standards*. The result is a streamlined, more user-friendly guide to effective and efficient health services.

To order your copy, go to the online bookstore at [www.ncchc.org](http://www.ncchc.org) or contact info@ncchc.org.

To register for a 2018 *Standards* webinar, August 28 at 1 pm CDT, contact info@ncchc.org.

**Compliance Dates & Deadlines**

Jails and prisons scheduled for a survey in August, September or October have the choice of being surveyed using the 2014 or 2018 *Standards*. Beginning November 1, all jail and prison surveys will be conducted under the 2018 *Standards*. Facilities applying for initial accreditation in 2018 will be surveyed under the 2018 version of the *Standards*. 

**DOES YOUR FACILITY “follow NCCHC standards”?**

Then why not make it official by becoming accredited? The NCCHC survey process is the only way to know for certain whether you are in compliance with the standards. The release of the new editions is a great time to explore accreditation.
What Does It Mean to Be a CCHP?

Ask the people who have earned CCHP certification what the achievement means to them and you’ll hear a variety of answers:

“It gives those of us in the field the opportunity to stand tall and say, ‘I’m good at what I do.’ It communicates that to the world.”

“This credential gives you credibility in your environment.”

“It means you’re part of a community, like wearing a team shirt.”

“It gives you a base, a foundation to understand where we’re headed in correctional health care.”

“It’s internally validating to be able to say to myself, ‘I have mastered this body of knowledge.’”

For me, the decision to sit for the CCHP exam was an easy one to make. Preparing for the exam was a great opportunity to dive into the world of correctional health care, become closely acquainted with the standards and gain an understanding of the issues facing NCCHC’s constituents.

I’m a big believer in certification in general. Mastering a specific body of knowledge, demonstrating that mastery via objective assessment and using the knowledge to excel in your field is an opportunity worth seizing. Years ago, I benefited from becoming a Certified Association Executive through the American Society of Association Executives.

Within weeks of joining NCCHC, I began making plans to become a CCHP. Certification recognizes the mastery of national standards and the knowledge expected of specialists in the complex correctional health field.

Participation in the CCHP program is a not only a symbol of achievement; it’s also highly valued by many employers.

The credential has been earned by thousands of individuals nationwide, clinicians and administrators alike. After becoming certified, a CCHP may opt to pursue specialty certification for mental health professionals (CCHP-MH), physicians (CCHP-P) or nurses (CCHP-RN), as well as Advanced certification (CCHP-A).

Is this the year you will commit to advancing your career by becoming a CCHP? For more information, visit the Professional Certification section of www.ncchc.org.

Best regards,

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The CCHP exam is offered at more than 300 PSI testing centers nationwide, making it easy to find a convenient time and location. NCCHC can also provide Standards training and the CCHP exam at your company or facility.

Contact matissasammons@ncchc.org for more information.

Please note: The exam will cover the 2018 Standards beginning October 21.
**New Standard Explained**

**What is medical surveillance of inmate workers?**

I understand that there is a completely new standard in the 2018 editions regarding inmate workers. What is it and how do we comply with it?

A Standard B-04 Medical Surveillance of Inmate Workers is a new standard requiring that a facility has a program to prevent illness and injury among the inmate worker population. Incarcerated workers face many of the same hazards – mechanical, chemical, environmental, etc., as nonincarcerated employees in similar industries and should be likewise protected. To identify and reduce work-related risks, facilities should monitor workers’ health and safety through a medical surveillance program, developed by the responsible physician in cooperation with the responsible health authority.

**Partners in Suicide Prevention**

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has partnered with NCCHC in targeting the problem of inmate suicide and creating a National Response Plan for the crisis.

AFSP is the nation’s largest nonprofit dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. The partnership leverages both organizations’ resources, expertise and experience to develop a roadmap with actionable guidance for implementing suicide prevention strategies that are appropriate and effective for the correctional setting, and that will ultimately save lives.

At a Suicide Prevention Summit in July, several major correctional health care companies and correctional mental health experts met with representatives from NCCHC and AFSP to continue the work begun at the inaugural meeting last summer. Summit attendees broke up into working groups to delve into three priority issues: suicide assessment and data collection, intervention strategies and effective education and training for inmate-patients, staff and families. Together, the two organizations are developing a series of guidelines and best practices for those working in jails and prisons.

“Partnering with NCCHC is critically important and will allow us to reach an audience that is especially vulnerable to suicide,” says Bob Gebbia, AFSP CEO. Suicide in correctional settings is one of four key focus areas of AFSP’s Project 2025, which aims to reduce the suicide rate nationwide by 20% by the year 2025.

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**NEW at NCCHC**

NCCHC Connect is an online discussion and networking community for correctional health professionals, with groups for custody staff, physicians, nurses and more. To join, contact connect@ncchc.org.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners is NCCHC’s newest supporting organization. Each supporting organization appoints a liaison to the board to create a diverse, multidisciplinary governing group.

The new accreditation system and portal is open, and accredited facilities are receiving AMR information on a rolling basis. If your facility is accredited, the health services administrator should watch for details on how to access the system and complete the AMR. For information, contact traceytitus@ncchc.org.

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Dana Neitlich, MSW, program executive director, Massachusetts Partnership for Correctional Healthcare, discusses suicide prevention with other Summit participants.
On-Site Opioid Use Disorder Training Can Save Lives

One county jail made a smart move in the fight against opioid addiction: The Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center in North Charleston, SC, hired NCCHC Resources, Inc., to teach staff members about medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in the correctional setting. Participants also learned about establishing a successful OTP using NCCHC’s Standards for Opioid Treatment Programs in Correctional Facilities.

The all-day, interactive training seminar included information on the scope of the opioid problem, the role of MAT in treatment and approaches to MAT, as well as an in-depth review of the OTP Standards.

With an average daily population around 1,300, Al Cannon is not a huge jail. The leadership knows, however, how important it is for the staff to understand the most current thinking in how to treat inmates with opioid use disorder. “With the increase in opioid use in our community and the great risk for return to use or overdose after release from detention, we feel it is critical that MAT be implemented in the detention center,” says Chanda Brown, PhD, LMSW, director of the Charleston Center, the county’s public health provider. “It’s the right thing to do medically and it could potentially save lives.”

NCCHC is the only corrections-specific organization that is federally authorized to accredit opioid treatment programs.

To discuss training, consultation and technical assistance available through NCCHC Resources, contact info@ncchcresources.org.