

**San Diego County Sheriff's Department Detention Services Bureau – Manual of Policies and Procedures**

<b>DATE:</b>	JANUARY 14, 2020
<b>NUMBER:</b>	J.8
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CONTRABAND WATCH
<b>RELATED SECTIONS:</b>	<a href="#">I.52</a> ; <a href="#">I.64</a> ; <a href="#">M.5</a>

**PURPOSE:**

To establish guidelines for the monitoring of inmates suspected of concealing contraband within their body.

**POLICY:**

Inmates suspected of concealing contraband (e.g., foreign substances, instruments, drugs/narcotics) within their body and determined by health staff as non-life threatening to the inmate will be placed on Contraband Watch (CW). Placing an inmate on CW is done in an attempt to safely recover the suspected contraband, ensure contraband is not circulated into the inmate population and to provide safeguard for the health and safety of the inmate suspected of having the concealed contraband.

**PROCEDURE:**

When it becomes apparent through a body scan, x-ray, emergency department medical examination, direct observation or reasonable suspicion that an inmate has concealed contraband in their body, either physically or through ingestion, the inmate will be placed on CW in a medical isolation cell. If a medical isolation cell is not available, the watch commander and health staff will identify another appropriate housing cell where the inmate can be observed by sworn and health staff. The cell used for CW will contain a toilet, wash basin and drinking fountain in compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Minimum Standards for the Design and Construction of Local Detention Facilities. If possible, the controls for the toilet should be located outside of the cell or controlled manually by sworn staff. The inmate will be isolated and un-restrained until the contraband can be retrieved through natural means, voluntarily surrendered or staff are reasonably confident the inmate is contraband free.

**I. APPROVAL**

Placing an inmate on CW shall be authorized by the on duty watch commander or designee and medical staff. Health staff and the on duty watch commander or designee will ensure the status of the inmate is reviewed at least every 72 hours to determine the need for continued retention on CW. The approval of continued CW will be documented in a Jail Information Management System (JIMS) Incident Report.

## II. PLACEMENT / DOCUMENTATION

- A. Prior to the inmate being placed on CW, the following shall be completed:
1. The watch commander or designee shall ensure an initial medical assessment of the inmate is completed by medical staff prior to the inmate's placement on CW as part of the inmate's ongoing treatment and care.
  2. Health staff will document the medical assessment in the inmate's health record in accordance with the Medical Services Division Operations Manual.
  3. The inmate shall be strip searched in accordance with to Detention Services Bureau Policies and Procedures (DSB P&P) I.52.
  4. The cell to be used for CW shall be thoroughly searched and cleaned.
- B. A JIMS Incident Report will be written for each inmate placed on CW. The report must clearly articulate the reasons for placement and the actions taken by sworn and health staff as required by section II.A of this policy.

## III. OBSERVATION

Safety checks will be conducted in accordance with the timeframes established for the housing area and with DSB P&P I.64.

## IV. HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

During the course of CW, if sworn staff observes a decline in the inmate's health, or it is believed the inmate's health may be affected by the concealed contraband, health staff will be immediately notified. Health staff will conduct an assessment of the inmate's condition and, if required, appropriate action will be taken in compliance with DSB P&P M.5

## V. REMOVAL FROM CONTRABAND WATCH

- A. The inmate may be removed from CW when it is reasonably believed the contraband has been relinquished or it is determined the inmate is contraband free after having undergone a body scan or body cavity x-ray.
- B. Termination of an inmate's placement on CW must be authorized by the on duty watch commander.
- C. Sworn staff shall complete a JIMS Incident Report to include the date of CW termination and the findings (e.g., contraband recovered, not recovered, etc.) relative to the body scan and/or x-ray.