

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

DATE:	MAY 24, 2022
NUMBER:	J.8
SUBJECT:	CONTRABAND WATCH
RELATED SECTIONS:	I.52 ; I.64 ; M.5

PURPOSE:

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

POLICY:

Incarcerated persons 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 incarcerated person will be placed on Contraband Watch (CW). Placing an individual on CW is done in an attempt to safely recover the suspected contraband, ensure contraband is not circulated into the incarcerated population and to provide safeguard for the health and safety of the person 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 incarcerated person has concealed contraband in their body, either physically or through ingestion, the person 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 person 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 incarcerated person will be isolated and un-restrained until the contraband can be retrieved through natural means, voluntarily surrendered or staff are reasonably confident the person is contraband free.

I. APPROVAL

Placing an incarcerated person on CW shall be authorized by the on-duty watch commander or designee and health staff. Health staff and the on-duty watch commander or designee will ensure the status of the individual 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 incarcerated person being placed on CW, the following shall be completed:

1. The watch commander or designee shall ensure an initial medical assessment of the individual is completed by medical staff prior to the person's placement on CW as part of the person's ongoing treatment and care.
 2. Health staff will document the medical assessment in the person's health record in accordance with the Medical Services Division Operations Manual.
 3. The incarcerated person shall be strip searched in accordance with Detention Services Bureau Policies and Procedures (DSB P&P) section 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 incarcerated person 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 incarcerated person's health, or it is believed the person's health may be affected by the concealed contraband, health staff will be immediately notified. Health staff will conduct an assessment of the person'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 incarcerated person may be removed from CW when it is reasonably believed the contraband has been relinquished or it is determined the person is contraband free after having undergone a body scan or body cavity x-ray.
- B. Termination of an incarcerated person'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.