


NH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE	CHAPTER <u>Medical and Forensics</u> STATEMENT NUMBER <u>567.00</u>
SUBJECT: <b>MEDICAL/DENTAL PROSTHETICS</b>	EFFECTIVE DATE <u>03/26/2025</u>
PROPONENT: <u>Paula L. Mattis, Director</u> <i>Name/Title</i>  <u>Medical/Forensic Services 603-271-3707</u> <i>Office Phone #</i>	REVIEW DATE <u>03/26/2028</u> SUPERSEDES PPD# <u>6.11</u> DATED <u>04/01/2008</u>
ISSUING OFFICER:   <u>HELEN E. HANKS, COMMISSIONER</u>	DIRECTOR'S INITIALS _____ DATE _____ APPENDIX ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____
REFERENCE NO: See reference section on last page of PPD.	

- (a) **PURPOSE:**  
The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the issuance and management of prosthetics.
- (b) **APPLICABILITY:**  
This policy applies to:  
(1) Security, medical, and dental staff.
- (c) **POLICY:**  
(1) It is the policy of the NH Department of Corrections to ensure inmate health while maintaining security and resource management in the provision of medical and/or dental prosthetics.
- (d) **PROCEDURES:**  
(1) The determination that a prosthesis is needed will be made by a medical provider, a dental provider, or a physical therapist.  
(2) The criteria used by the practitioner will include, but need not be limited to:  
a. Level of functional impairment.  
b. Benefits and side effects of proposed prosthesis.  
c. Medical/dental necessity.  
(3) Determination of need and type of prosthesis is based on an individualized plan of care and is documented in the electronic health record.  
(4) Practitioners will approve the least costly prosthetic device that will accomplish restoration of the basic functioning determined to be necessary.  
(5) Prosthetic devices, both for oral and medical care, that are for cosmetic purposes shall not be allowed.

- (6) If security staff and healthcare staff cannot reach a determination as to safety of a specific prosthesis, the Director of Medical and Forensic Services and the Warden/Director of the facility shall convene to make a determination to manage the safety and security of the facility while ensuring the Department's obligation to provide essential healthcare services.
- (7) Replacement:
  - a. It is the responsibility of the department to replace prosthetic devices that have become non-functional because of long periods of use or due to changes in the inmate's health status.
  - b. If a prosthetic device is lost or damaged from misuse by the inmate, the department will not assume responsibility for its replacement. The inmate will be responsible for any costs associated with replacement.
    1. It is recommended that determination of inmate responsibility be substantiated by documentation in the electronic health record, the offender management system, or an incident report.
    2. Inmates can grieve a decision about replacement per PPD 313.00 Formal Complaints and Grievances by Probationers, Parolees, and Residents.

REFERENCES:

Standards for Health Services in Prisons – P-F-01  
National Commission on Correctional Health Care 2018