

**Subpart E—Hunger Strikes, Inmate**

SOURCE: 45 FR 23365, Apr. 4, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 549.60 Purpose and scope.**

The Bureau of Prisons provides guidelines for the medical and administrative management of inmates who engage in hunger strikes. It is the responsibility of the Bureau of Prisons to monitor the health and welfare of individual inmates, and to ensure that procedures are pursued to preserve life.

[45 FR 23365, Apr. 4, 1980, as amended at 59 FR 31883, June 20, 1994]

**§ 549.61 Definition.**

As defined in this rule, an inmate is on a *hunger strike*:

(a) When he or she communicates that fact to staff and is observed by staff to be refraining from eating for a period of time, ordinarily in excess of 72 hours; or

(b) When staff observe the inmate to be refraining from eating for a period in excess of 72 hours. When staff consider it prudent to do so, a referral for medical evaluation may be made without waiting 72 hours.

**§ 549.62 Initial referral.**

(a) Staff shall refer an inmate who is observed to be on a hunger strike to medical or mental health staff for evaluation and, when appropriate, for treatment.

(b) Medical staff ordinarily shall place the inmate in a medically appropriate locked room for close monitoring.

[59 FR 31883, June 20, 1994]

**§ 549.63 Initial medical evaluation and management.**

(a) Medical staff shall ordinarily perform the following procedures upon initial referral of an inmate on a hunger strike:

- (1) Measure and record height and weight;
- (2) Take and record vital signs;
- (3) Urinalysis;
- (4) Psychological and/or psychiatric evaluation;
- (5) General medical evaluation;

(6) Radiographs as clinically indicated;

(7) Laboratory studies as clinically indicated.

(b) Medical staff shall take and record weight and vital signs at least once every 24 hours while the inmate is on a hunger strike. Other procedures identified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be repeated as medically indicated.

(c) When valid medical reasons exist, the physician may modify, discontinue, or expand any of the medical procedures described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) When medical staff consider it medically mandatory, an inmate on a hunger strike will be transferred to a Medical Referral Center or to another Bureau institution considered medically appropriate, or to a community hospital.

[45 FR 23365, Apr. 4, 1980, as amended at 59 FR 31883, June 20, 1994]

**§ 549.64 Food/liquid intake/output.**

(a) Staff shall prepare and deliver to the inmate's room three meals per day or as otherwise authorized by the physician.

(b) Staff shall provide the inmate an adequate supply of drinking water. Other beverages shall also be offered.

(c) Staff shall remove any commissary food items and private food supplies of the inmate while the inmate is on a hunger strike. An inmate may not make commissary food purchases while under hunger strike management.

[45 FR 23365, Apr. 4, 1980, as amended at 59 FR 31883, June 20, 1994]

**§ 549.65 Refusal to accept treatment.**

(a) When, as a result of inadequate intake or abnormal output, a physician determines that the inmate's life or health will be threatened if treatment is not initiated immediately, the physician shall give consideration to forced medical treatment of the inmate.

(b) Prior to medical treatment being administered against the inmate's will, staff shall make reasonable efforts to convince the inmate to voluntarily accept treatment. Medical risks faced by