

**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

**§ 549.66**

**28 CFR Ch. V (7-1-05 Edition)**

the inmate if treatment is not accepted shall also be explained to the inmate. Staff shall document their treatment efforts in the medical record of the inmate.

(c) When, after reasonable efforts, or in an emergency preventing such efforts, a medical necessity for immediate treatment of a life or health threatening situation exists, the physician may order that treatment be administered without the consent of the inmate. Staff shall document their treatment efforts in the medical record of the inmate.

(d) Staff shall continue clinical and laboratory monitoring as necessary until the inmate's life or permanent health is no longer threatened.

(e) Staff shall continue medical, psychiatric and/or psychological follow-up as long as necessary.

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

**§ 549.66 Release from treatment.**

Only the physician may order that an inmate be released from hunger strike evaluation and treatment. This order shall be documented in the medical record of the inmate.

[59 FR 31883, June 20, 1994]

**Subpart F [Reserved]**

**Subpart G—Authority To Conduct Autopsies**

**§ 549.80 Authority to conduct autopsies.**

(a) The Warden may order an autopsy and related scientific or medical tests to be performed on the body of a deceased inmate of the facility in the event of homicide, suicide, fatal illness or accident, or unexplained death. The autopsy or tests may be ordered in one of these situations only when the Warden determines that the autopsy or test is necessary to detect a crime, maintain discipline, protect the health or safety of other inmates, remedy official misconduct, or defend the United States or its employees from civil liability arising from the administration of the facility.

(1) The authority of the Warden under this section may not be dele-

gated below the level of Acting Warden.

(2) Where the Warden has the authority to order an autopsy under this provision, no non-Bureau of Prisons authorization (e.g., from either the coroner or from the inmate's next-of-kin) is required. A decision on whether to order an autopsy is ordinarily made after consultation with the attending physician, and a determination by the Warden that the autopsy is in accordance with the statutory provision. Once it is determined that an autopsy is appropriate, the Warden shall prepare a written statement authorizing this procedure. The written statement is to include the basis for approval.

(b) In any situation other than as described in paragraph (a) of this section, the Warden may order an autopsy or post-mortem operation, including removal of tissue for transplanting, to be performed on the body of a deceased inmate of the facility with the written consent of a person (e.g., coroner or next-of-kin, or the decedent's consent in the case of tissue removed for transplanting) authorized to permit the autopsy or post-mortem operation under the law of the State in which the facility is located.

(1) The authority of the Warden under this section may not be delegated below the level of Acting Warden.

(2) When the conducting of an autopsy requires permission of the family or next-of-kin, the following message is to be included in the telegram notifying the family or next-of-kin of the death: "Permission is requested to perform a complete autopsy". Also inform the family or next-of-kin that they may telegraph the institution *collect* with their response. Where permission is not received from the person (e.g., coroner or next-of-kin) authorized to permit the autopsy or post-mortem operation, an autopsy or post-mortem operation may not be performed under the conditions of this paragraph (b).

(c) In addition to the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, each institution also is expected to abide by the following procedures.

(1) Staff shall ensure that the state laws regarding the reporting of deaths are followed.