
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Department of Corrections Pharmaceuticals

The Department of Corrections (DOC) receives funding from the State General Fund for pharmaceutical costs for the State prisons. This funding supports the cost of providing drugs and biologicals to individuals incarcerated in the nine institutions.

Background and History

Prior to FY 2008, each prison had its own budget for pharmacy. During the 2007 Legislative Session, [Senate File 575](#) (FY 2008 Justice System Appropriations Act) transferred approximately \$6.9 million from eight of the prisons to the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC) at Oakdale to create a centralized pharmacy, primarily as a cost containment effort. Since then, the funding for Department-wide pharmaceuticals has been included in the appropriation to the IMCC, and the IMCC has overseen this budget. All invoices for medication purchases at other pharmacy locations have been processed by the IMCC and paid from this transferred funding. See the *Issue Review* [Department of Corrections Centralized Pharmacy](#) for more information about pharmacy costs and the implementation of the centralized pharmacy.

During the 2022 Legislative Session, [House File 2559](#) (FY 2023 Justice System Appropriations Act) separated the DOC pharmaceuticals funding from the appropriation to the IMCC, and DOC Department-wide institutional pharmaceuticals received its own appropriation. This appropriation was separated from the IMCC appropriation to reduce the strain on the IMCC's budget caused by including statewide pharmaceutical costs.

Current Situation

The DOC currently has two central pharmacy locations that serve the nine institutions. These full-service central pharmacies are located at the IMCC and the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW) at Mitchellville. The central pharmacies are located outside the fenced facilities of the institutions where they are located. None of the institutions have on-site pharmacy operations. The IMCC, the Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP), the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) at Fort Madison, and the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility (MPCF) receive pharmacy services from the IMCC pharmacy. The ICIW, the Clarinda Correctional Facility (CCF), the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF), the North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF) at Rockwell City, and the Newton Correctional Facility (NCF) receive pharmacy services from the DOC central pharmacy at Mitchellville.

Both central pharmacies provide the same type of services to the institutions, and each is staffed by a pharmacy supervisor, pharmacists, and certified pharmacy technicians. The DOC also has a Director of Pharmacy who oversees pharmacy services. The DOC utilizes the Iowa Corrections Offender Network (ICON) for pharmacy administration.

Funding

For FY 2025, the General Assembly appropriated approximately \$9.9 million to the DOC for Department-wide institutional pharmaceuticals. The DOC pharmaceuticals appropriation funds only the

More Information

Department of Corrections: doc.iowa.gov
LSA Staff Contact: Justus Thompson (515.725.2249) justus.thompson@legis.iowa.gov

cost of pharmaceuticals, including drugs and biologicals, provided to incarcerated individuals. The appropriation does not fund the pharmacy operations budget, which includes additional costs for salaries, equipment, and utilities. According to the DOC, pharmacy costs are not necessarily stable year to year, as they vary based on the medical conditions of the individuals who are incarcerated. The DOC purchases medications under contract and utilizes a government buying group in order to lower costs.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapter [904](#)

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