In the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) system, inmates and facilities are classified according to Medical Care Levels.\(^1\) Inmate classifications are based on the medical history and health condition of the inmate, while facility classifications are based on the inmate care level that the facility is staffed and equipped to handle.

**Medical Care Level 1**

Inmates with Care Level 1 needs are generally healthy, under 70 years of age, and may have limited medical needs requiring clinician evaluation and monitoring. Examples of such conditions are mild asthma, diet-controlled diabetes, and patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who are stable and do not require medications.

**Medical Care Level 2**

Inmates with Care Level 2 needs are those who are stable outpatients, requiring at least quarterly clinician evaluation. Examples of such conditions are medication-controlled diabetes, epilepsy, and emphysema.

**Medical Care Level 3**

Inmates with Care Level 3 needs are fragile outpatients who require frequent clinical contacts, and/or who may require some assistance with activities of daily living, but do not require daily nursing supervision. This Care Level may include stabilization of medical or mental health conditions that may require periodic hospitalization. Examples of this Care Level are patients with cancer in remission less than a year, advanced HIV disease, severe mental illness in remission on medication.

**Medical Care Level 4**

Inmates with Care Level 4 needs are severely impaired, and may require daily nursing care. Examples of such conditions are those with cancer in active treatment, dialysis, quadriplegia, stroke or head injury patients, major surgical patients, acute psychiatric illness requiring inpatient treatment, and high-risk pregnancy.

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