



# CIC INFO SHEET

CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

## BOP – MENTAL HEALTH CARE LEVELS

In the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) system, inmates and facilities are classified according to Mental Health Care Levels.<sup>1</sup> Inmate classifications are based on the 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.

<p><b><u>Mental Health Care Level 1</u></b></p> <p>Care Level 1 inmates are less than 70 years old and are generally healthy but may have limited medical needs that can be easily managed by clinician evaluations every 6 months. Sub-specialty care is limited in that it is not regularly required and is completed in less than 3 months. This care level includes inmates with stable mental-health conditions requiring chronic care appointments and individual psychology or health services contacts no more than once every 6 months. The acute services required, such as crisis intervention, are less than 3 months duration, occur no more than every 2 years, and can be resolved without hospitalization.</p>	<p><b><u>Mental Health Care Level 2</u></b></p> <p>Care Level 2 inmates are stable outpatients with chronic illnesses requiring at least quarterly clinician evaluations. These inmates independently perform daily living activities. The care level includes inmates with mental health conditions that can be managed through chronic care clinics or individual psychology or health services contacts no more frequently than monthly to quarterly. The acute services required, such as crisis intervention, are less than 3 months duration, occur no more than every 2 years, and can be resolved without hospitalization.</p>
<p><b><u>Mental Health Care Level 3</u></b></p> <p>Care Level 3 inmates are fragile outpatients with medical conditions that require daily to monthly clinical contact. These inmates may have chronic or recurrent mental illnesses or ongoing cognitive impairments that require daily to monthly psychiatric health services or psychology contacts to maintain outpatient status. These inmates may also require assistance in performing some activities of daily living, but do not require daily nursing care. Inmates in this care level may periodically require hospitalization to stabilize the inmate's medical or mental health condition.</p>	<p><b><u>Mental Health Care Level 4</u></b></p> <p>Care Level 4 inmates have acute medical or chronic mental health conditions resulting in severe impairments to physical and cognitive functioning. These inmates require services at Medical Referral Centers (MRC), such as the BOP's Federal Medical Centers (FMC), and may require varying degrees of nursing care.</p>

<sup>1</sup>OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GEN., U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISON'S EFFORTS TO MANAGE INMATE HEALTH CARE (Feb. 2008), available at <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/BOP/a0808/final.pdf>.