



Information for health care providers with patients who have been detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Background: United States Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- ICE houses unauthorized aliens in ICE Processing Centers, contract detention facilities, and local detention facilities under intergovernmental service agreements.
- ICE detains aliens only for the purpose of removal. ICE does not maintain custody of unauthorized aliens serving criminal sentences.
- Each detainee is identified with a 9 digit alien number that starts with 0 or 2.
- ICE should be notified of a detainee with a significant health problem in order to discuss continuity of care planning prior to transfer, release, or removal.
- Mexican and Canadian nationals are often removed at a land border port of entry.
- Citizens of other countries are removed by air transport. Information about ICE custody is available at www.ice.gov.

General Considerations for Individuals in ICE Custody

- ICE authority to detain undocumented and/or deportable aliens is found in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (INA), 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101 *et seq.*
- An undocumented and/or deportable alien, who has a final order of removal, has been ordered released, or for whom custody authority under the INA has expired, cannot be detained solely for the purpose of medical care.
- Transfers between facilities and across jurisdictional boundaries are common.
- Facilities housing ICE detainees must comply with ICE national detention standards and the applicable intergovernmental service agreement or contract. ICE detention standards are available at <http://www.ice.gov/detention-management/>.

TB and HIV Continuity of Care

- ICE will attempt to facilitate continuity of care and/or referrals for TB and HIV care; advanced notification is required.
- HIV referrals to Mexico and Central America follow referral protocols established by the [U.S.-Mexico Border AETC Steering Team \(UMBAST\)](#); see also <https://aidsetc.org/topic/us-mexico-border>.
- All ICE detainees who are suspected of having TB should be enrolled in the CureTB transnational TB referral program.
- Contact the ICE Health Service Corps, Public Health, Safety, and Preparedness Unit at IHSC_InfectionPrevention@ICE.dhs.gov.



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Federal Custody

How do I find out if a patient at a facility is in the custody of a federal law enforcement agency, and if so, which federal law enforcement agency?

- Ask the facility's medical, classifications, or booking staff to see what agency has legal custody for the patient, and ascertain the corresponding identification number for the respective law enforcement agency.
 - ICE detainees are identified with an 9 digit alien number (A#) that starts with 0 or 2.
 - Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) inmates are identified with a Register Number using the format, #####-###.
 - United States Marshals Service (USMS) prisoners are identified with a Register Number using the format, #####-###.
- Search ICE custody using the ICE detainee locator, available at <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>.
 - Search using the alien number, full legal name, alias names, date of birth, country of birth.
- Search BOP custody using the BOP inmate locator, available at <http://www.bop.gov/iloc2/LocateInmate.jsp>.
 - Search using the Register Number, full legal name, alias names, and age.
- USMS has no online locator available; contact the local USMS District. District contact information can be found at: <http://www.usmarshals.gov/index.html>, click on map labeled "Your Local U.S. Marshal Office."
 - Identify prisoner by Register Number, full legal name, alias, and/or date of birth.

Who should we notify when we identify patients in federal custody with significant continuity of care needs?

- Notify the law enforcement agency with legal custody.
- For individuals in ICE custody, notify the local ICE Field Office; Field Office contact information is available at <http://www.ice.gov/contact/ero/>.

What additional information should be reported to the federal agencies?

- Provide identifying information for the patient, facility name, facility location, and law enforcement agency identification numbers assigned to the person.
- Ascertain the identification number by asking the medical, classifications, or booking staff at the facility where the patient is housed.

How may a health care provider obtain medical records for a patient after he or she has been released from ICE custody?

- Submit a [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#) request, including a consent signed by the patient; see <https://www.ice.gov/foia/request> for more information.