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## Follow up request - inewsourc

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Todd, Brian &lt;Brian.Todd@corecivic.com&gt;

Fri, May 29, 2026 at 10:25 AM

To: Sofia Mejías-Pascoe &lt;sofiamejias@inewsourc.org&gt;, "Gustin, Ryan" &lt;Ryan.Gustin@corecivic.com&gt;

Cc: Jake Kincaid &lt;jakekincaid@inewsourc.org&gt;

Sofia and Jake,

Thank you for reaching out. While we are unable to accommodate your interview request, you're free to use the following statement for your reporting. Tour requests of our ICE-contracted facilities must be sent to our partners at ICE Public Affairs.

The safety, health and well-being of the individuals entrusted to our care is our top priority. We take seriously our responsibility to adhere to all applicable federal detention standards at our Otay Mesa Detention Center. OMDC is monitored closely by our government partners at ICE, including through regular review and audit processes.

- On February 17, 2026, OMDC **received reaccreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care** by demonstrating compliance with NCCCHC's Standards for Health Services in Jails, which are among the most rigorous in correctional health care.
- OMDC is also accredited by the American Correctional Association and scored 100% on both mandatory and non-mandatory standards in its most recent audit.

**Medical care and staffing:** CoreCivic is committed to providing access to high-quality, timely medical and mental health care at OMDC. Our onsite medical clinic is staffed by licensed health care professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health counselors, and dentists, all of whom contractually meet the highest standards of care, as verified by multiple audits and inspections. The facility always works to maintain contractually required staffing levels.

Patients can make urgent or routine medical requests can be made at any time. Those requests are triaged by nurses based on urgency and acuity. Appointments are made within 24 hours, but may not be on the same day. Our clinic is open seven days a week from 7:00 am. until the evening, based on the number of patients needing to be treated and the complexity of their cases. Emergency medical care is provided 24/7.

Managing complex chronic conditions requires ongoing clinical judgment and presents challenges in any care setting. CoreCivic's medical team works to ensure that individuals with chronic conditions receive appropriate monitoring and treatment throughout their time in our care. Upon entering our facility, every individual is screened by nurses. The nurses identify patients with chronic illnesses, medications, or who appear in need of early assistance and make sure their needs are addressed immediately. Patients are encouraged to disclose any medical conditions so they can be fully addressed. Patient compliance with medications and medical recommendations are also necessary to ensure optimal outcomes.

**Diabetes care:** Our chronic care diabetic patients receive blood sugar testing, insulin and diabetic medications when indicated, and they are placed on a diabetic diet. Appropriate snacks are also provided. These patients are monitored by a chronic care specialty nurse. If there is any indication that closer medical observation is warranted, a patient will be moved from the housing area to our Medical Housing Unit (MHU), which has its own designated nurse and medical provider, for closer observation. The rooms contain a bed, table and stool, TV and bathroom facilities. Patients in the MHU also have access to a private, individual shower. Medications, meals, nursing and medical services are brought to the patient's bedside, and they have access to our recreation yard to get fresh air and exercise, if desired.

Diabetic diets are planned and managed in accordance with ADA guidelines. Challenges to managing chronic care conditions inside a detention facility can be similar to that in the community, including having patients comply with medical orders and recommendations, taking their medications, showing up for their scheduled appointments, eating the provided meals, and avoiding other less healthful snack and food options that may not be recommended for their conditions.

**Medication Management:** Medication managed by detainees includes over-the-counter medications such as Ibuprofen, Tylenol, laxatives or medication that needs to be taken at the discretion of the patient. Patients are given a

standard supply (usually 30 days) to use as needed.

While some diabetic medications can be kept by detainees, insulin cannot because, as a safety precaution, needles are strictly controlled in the facility by medical staff.

**Events prior to arrival at OMDC:** It is important to note that CoreCivic's responsibility for an individual's care begins upon their arrival at our facility. Circumstances occurring at ICE field offices or during transfer — including the handling of personal medical supplies — are matters for ICE, and questions about those circumstances should be directed to ICE Public Affairs.

**Restrictive housing for medical purposes:** When individuals are placed in a medical observation area at OMDC, it is for clinical reasons — to allow medical staff to monitor and treat their condition more closely and effectively. This is standard practice in healthcare settings and is distinct from disciplinary or administrative restrictive housing. Individuals in medical observation retain access to care, meals and basic necessities. The use of medical observation units reflects our commitment to appropriate clinical oversight, not a punitive measure.

**Outside medical care:** When specialist care beyond what is available onsite is required, CoreCivic coordinates with government partners, community physicians, hospitals and ambulatory care providers to facilitate access. We would note that the authorization and approval of outside medical care for detainees involves our government partners, and questions about that process should be directed to ICE Public Affairs.

**Food quality:** CoreCivic provides three nutritious meals daily at OMDC, with menus reviewed and approved by a registered dietitian. Meals are designed to support a range of dietary needs including therapeutic diets. Fruits and vegetables are a regular component of meals served. Allegations of spoiled food are false. We would note that the **San Diego County Department of Environmental Health recently conducted an independent food inspection of OMDC and awarded the facility a perfect score of 100.** Over the past four years the facility has scored no lower than 93. Those results are publicly available.

**Grievance retaliation:** CoreCivic maintains a zero-tolerance policy for retaliation against any individual who files a grievance. Detainees have multiple safe and discrete avenues to raise concerns, including toll-free telephone numbers and direct access to management staff.

**Emergency medical calls:** CoreCivic staff are trained in emergency response protocols, including CPR and first aid. All CoreCivic staff follow established procedures for initiating emergency medical services.

CoreCivic plays a limited but important role in America's immigration system. We do not enforce immigration laws, arrest anyone for immigration violations, or have any say in an individual's deportation or release. Our responsibility is to care for each person respectfully and humanely while they receive the legal due process to which they are entitled.

For additional information, please contact ICE Public Affairs at [ICEMedia@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:ICEMedia@ice.dhs.gov) and DHS Public Affairs at [MediaInquiry@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:MediaInquiry@hq.dhs.gov).

Respectfully, Brian Todd

**Brian Todd**

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