PEER MISSISSIPPI
Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review

A Limited Review of the Provision of Medical Services in Mississippi Correctional Facilities

Report Highlights | Issue Brief #736 October 21, 2026

Background

The PEER Committee conducted a limited review of the medical services provided in correctional facilities administered by the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC). In conducting this review, PEER sought to assess the performance of MDOC's medical services contractor, VitalCore Health Strategies (VitalCore), in fulfilling select requirements outlined in its contract with MDOC.

Meets Requirements	Partially Meets Requirements	Does Not Meet Requirements or Poor Data Quality
Monthly Log of Pregnant Inmates	Healthcare Intake Log	Staffing Levels
Mobile Medical Units	Completeness of Intake Physical Examinations	Timeliness of Sick Call Request Triage
Medical Advisory Committee Meetings	Completeness of Intake Mental Health Screenings	Completeness of Sick Call Request Triage
Continuous Quality Improvement Program Reporting		Timeliness of Annual Physical Assessments
Timeliness of Intake Physical Examinations		
Timeliness of Intake Mental Health Screenings		

Areas Where VitalCore Fully Meets Requirements:

- maintains a monthly log of pregnant inmates;
- maintains four mobile medical units;
- keeps Medical Advisory Committee meeting minutes;
- generates statistical reports for the Continuous Quality Improvement Program; and,
- provides timely physical and mental health intake screenings.

Scope

PEER analyzed the medical records for a random sample of 50 inmates.

This report reflects PEER's review of records requested on December 11, 2025, and provided by VitalCore through April 9, 2026.

Areas Where VitalCore Does Not Fully Meet Contractual Requirements:

- VitalCore did not record all required items on its healthcare intake log.
- VitalCore did not provide documentation for all required components of the intake physical assessment.
- VitalCore did not provide documentation for all required components of the mental health screenings.
- VitalCore did not achieve compliance with its required staffing levels, according to MDOC's analysis.
- VitalCore's records for inmate sick call requests presented inconsistencies and interpretability issues that prevented independent analysis.
- VitalCore did not provide an annual physical assessment for all inmates.

After the review period ended, VitalCore provided additional medical records to PEER. These records reflected some improvements, but VitalCore still did not achieve full contractual compliance in those areas. A summary of those records may be found in the report's addendum.

Summary of Report Recommendations

1. VitalCore should ensure that it completes all required components of inmates' intake physical and mental health assessments and keep the medical records necessary to reflect their completion.
2. MDOC should work with VitalCore to resolve the shortages in medical staffing.
3. VitalCore should continue implementing its plan to come into compliance with the contractual requirement to provide annual physical examinations to all inmates.
4. VitalCore should accurately record when sick call requests are submitted and triaged for all inmates' sick call requests in a clear and standardized manner.

For more information, contact: (601) 359-1226 | P.O. Box 1204, Jackson, MS 39215-1204
Senator Chad McMahan, Chair | James F. (Ted) Booth, Executive Director