

I have been hearing for quite some time from staff and various media sources about how wonderful the medical care is for inmates. If any were truly aware of nature of the health system we have no one would be envious of what we have. First of all one must understand that the nature of medical interaction in here is adversarial at best. Just the other day a medical code was called in a building, inmates got down and staff meandered their way to the building as if nothing could be wrong. Medical staff soon walked their way to the building with their kits pulled behind them nonchalantly. I have seen the same response for all five years that I have been here. The prevailing attitude is that there is nothing medically wrong with us and that our problems are creations of our imaginations and desire for drugs. Because of this attitude there have been genuine medical injuries that should not have resulted in permanent damage but did. So is this the type of medical care that is so desired? Yes, after many attempts at receiving care some do get outstanding care and treatment from civilian physicians but some times even this care comes too late. I remember being part of an HMO and having the doctor actually interested in treating my problems not telling me that I had no problem. Yes, costs built up sometimes but care, true care was available. Now I must have an injury that is in a completely destroyed state as opposed to just hurting in order to get treatment. For if I merely hurt then I should take ibuprophen to alleviate the pain. If I want true medical treatment then I must wait until the cartilage is completely torn away or the joint separated before the care is available. The only time I have ever encountered such an attitude in medical care was when I was in the Army and the same advesarial triage was in place. It wasn't beneficial then and it sure isn't now. I remember when I was stationed in Germany and a member of my unit had anemia and dizziness. He repeatedly went to sick call and was told to take iron and other medication. Six months of this went on before they finally found that he had a bad heart valve and arranged for him to be sent stateside for emergengy surgery. He died on the flight. So again I ask, is this the type of medical care that everyone is jealous over?