

SECURITY AND SUPERVISION OF PRISONERS RECEIVING TREATMENT IN NHS LOTHIAN HOSPITALS

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**NHS Lothian
Policy/Procedure
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**SECURITY AND SUPERVISION OF PRISONERS RECEIVING
TREATMENT IN NHS Lothian Hospitals**

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1. Introduction

There are 2 prisons in the Lothian health board area, HMP Edinburgh and HMP Addiewell and NHS Lothian on occasions provides treatment within hospital settings to patients who are prisoners from these establishments.

It is the responsibility of NHS Lothian to provide at all times a safe environment for staff, patients and members of the public and therefore NHS Lothian will work closely with the Prison Escort Contractor to ensure appropriate security of NHS Lothian is maintained at all times.

NHS Lothian clinical staff, in liaison with prison-based healthcare staff, should also consider whether the consultations could be carried out in the Prison Health Centre.

This policy excludes prisoners on a Transfer for Treatment Directive (TTD) or on Sections 52, 53, and 54 of the Criminal Procedure Scotland Act.

The responsibility for the security and safety of the prisoner rests at all times with Prison/G4S staff*. The term custody staff is used throughout the document to refer to either G4S or prison staff.

**HMP Edinburgh is operated by Scottish Prison Service, HMP Addiewell is operated by Sodexo Justice Services and the Prison Escort Contractor is G4S.*

2. NHS Lothian Policies

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:
NHS Lothian Confidentiality Policy
NHS Lothian Interpreting and Translation policy

3. Custody Staff in Attendance

Prisoner security will at all times remain the responsibility of either G4S or Prison Staff. The custody staff will be in attendance throughout the prisoner's consultation.

Custody staff will endeavour, where practical, to allow for patient/clinical staff privacy and this will be considered during the risk assessment process. When clinical staff require privacy to carry out an examination of the prisoner, Custody staff will review security and may allow screens to be used to partition the prisoner and clinical staff from prison/G4S staff where at all practicable.

On rare occasions the situation may necessitate:

- 1) the removal of the handcuffs*
- 2) custody staff to be outwith the room*

*On these occasions the custody staff will consult with their Operational Control Centre (OCC) / Prison Operation Manager and ensure a dynamic risk assessment carried out.

The risk assessment will be carried out by custody staff/Managers and will include:

- The security of the room – windows, exits, location
- The number of staff to be present
- The nature of the treatment and the condition of the prisoner
- The police support available

This assessment needs to be made for **each separate visit** as the prisoner's risk status can change, so that at times the removal of handcuffs may not be approved or the prisoner consultation may not be carried out without prior arrangements having been made.

4. Follow-up Appointments and discharge

Follow-up appointments must not be arranged with the prisoner. The date and time of the next appointment should be forwarded to the prison.

Where discharge medication is required this should be given to the custody staff so that it can be transferred securely to prison healthcare team. It is good practice to telephone the prison healthcare team and inform them of the prisoners discharge and if any medications are required. On no account should any medication be given to the prisoner to carry.

5. Inpatient Prisoners

In addition to the above conditions, the following procedures apply:

- Handcuffs will remain in place whilst the patient is in bed or depending on the risk assessment handcuffs may be replaced with an escort chain.
- The patient should be cared for in a single room (if possible) with a one way entry/exit system
- Visits will be at the discretion of the custody staff and ward staff
- Local Police may be informed of the prisoners hospital visit. This would be a decision for the prison Governor/Director.
- The prisoner's clothing will be returned to the custody staff.

6. Emergency/Life threatening Medical Conditions

In the case of emergency treatment or changes to treatment where the medical staff indicate that there is an **urgent medical reason** for the handcuffs to be removed, custody staff will carry out a risk assessment and would revert the matter to their Operational Control Centre (OCC)/ Prison Operations Manager for a decision (where necessary) in line with their Operating Procedures.

If a patient is to be administered with medication following an overdose, staff need to consider the need for additional security and/or prison staff in the event of the patient becoming difficult to manage.

7. Prisoner's Exhibiting Violent Behaviour

When a prisoner is exhibiting violent behaviour, in the first instance this will be managed by the Custody Staff, with necessary action being taken in line with their operating instructions.

Confidentiality will be maintained at all times, as described in NHS Lothian Confidentiality Policy and the custody staffs own confidentiality policy and their terms of employment .

8. Involvement of security staff within NHS Lothian

Whenever a prisoner is to be brought to the hospital, the prison will notify security staff, if security staff is on site, the outpatient department and the ward, and where possible indicate a time of arrival.

If security is present within the hospital they will arrange for a security officer to visit the prison party and provide a radio and agree a contact procedure. Arrangements will be made for regular radio checks, the replacement of batteries and the return of the radio on the completion of the visit.

Security staff will take direction from clinical and custody staff and all requests for assistance relating to the prisoner will be dealt with promptly.