

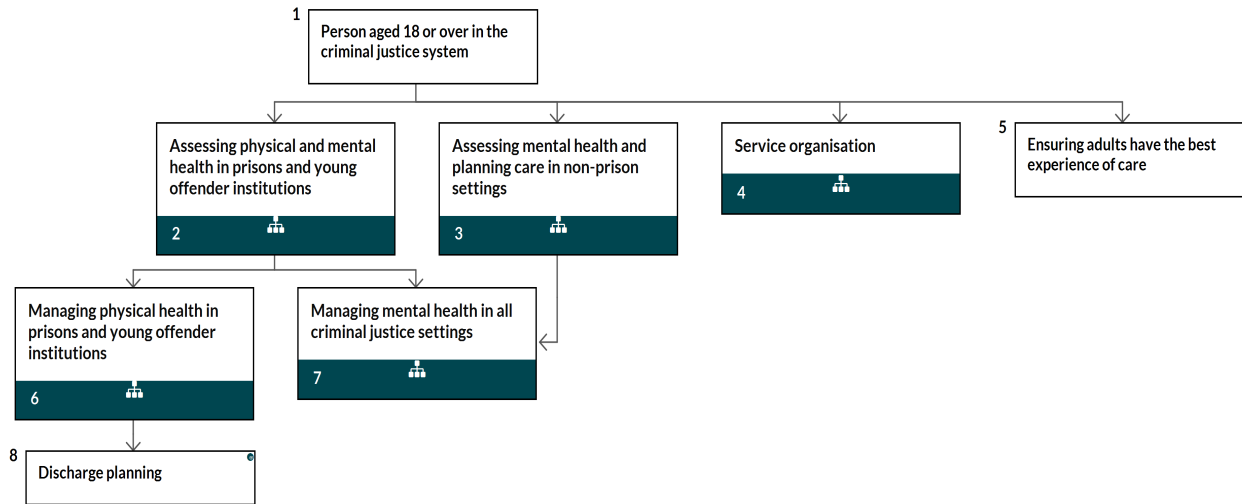
# Health of people in the criminal justice system overview

NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/health-of-people-in-the-criminal-justice-system>  
NICE Pathway last updated: 25 August 2021

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



## 1 Person aged 18 or over in the criminal justice system

Use this guidance with any NICE guidance on specific mental health problems. Take into account:

- the nature and severity of any mental health problem
- the presence of a learning disability or any acquired cognitive impairment (also see what NICE says on [assessing mental health problems in people with learning disabilities](#))
- other communication difficulties (for example, language, literacy, information processing or sensory deficit)
- the nature of any coexisting mental health problems (including substance misuse)
- limitations on prescribing and administering medicine (for example, in-possession medicine) or the timing of the delivery of interventions in certain settings (for example, prison)
- the development of trust in an environment where health and care staff may be held in suspicion
- any cultural and ethnic differences in beliefs about mental health problems
- any differences in presentation of mental health problems
- the setting in which the assessment or treatment takes place.

## 2 Assessing physical and mental health in prisons and young offender institutions

See [Health of people in the criminal justice system / Assessing physical and mental health of people in prisons and young offender institutions](#)

## 3 Assessing mental health and planning care in non-prison settings

See [Health of people in the criminal justice system / Assessing mental health and planning care in non-prison settings in the criminal justice system](#)

## 4 Service organisation

See [Health of people in the criminal justice system / Service organisation for managing physical and mental health problems in the criminal justice system](#)

## 5 Experience of care

Use these recommendations with NICE's recommendations on:

- [patient experience in adult NHS services](#)
- [service user experience in adult mental health services](#)

to improve the experience of care.

## 6 Managing physical health in prisons and young offender institutions

[See Health of people in the criminal justice system / Managing the physical health of people in prisons and young offender institutions](#)

## 7 Managing mental health in all criminal justice settings

[See Health of people in the criminal justice system / Managing the mental health of people in the criminal justice system](#)

## 8 Discharge planning

Ensure continuity of care between custodial settings (including court), the receiving prison or during escort periods by, for example:

- providing access to relevant information from the patient record
- providing any medicines (including controlled drugs) (see below)
- issuing an FP10 prescription.

Carry out a pre-release health assessment for people with complex needs. This should be led by primary healthcare and involve multidisciplinary team members and the person. It should take place at least 1 month before the date the person is expected to be released.

Include the following in the care summary and post-release action plan for all people:

- any significant health events that affected the person while they were in prison, for example:
  - new diagnoses
  - hospital admissions

- - instances of self-harm
- any health or social care provided in prison
- details of any ongoing health and social care needs, including:
  - medicines they are taking (see below)
  - mental health or substance misuse
- future health and social care appointments, including appointments with:
  - secondary and tertiary care
  - mental health services
  - substance misuse and recovery services
  - social services.

Give the person a copy of the care summary and post-release plan.

Help people who are being released from prison to find and register with a community GP if they were not previously registered with one.

Before the person is released, liaise with services that will be providing care and support to them after they leave prison. This should include (as needed):

- primary care
- secondary and tertiary specialist services (for example HIV, TB, oncology)
- mental health or learning disability services
- substance misuse services
- National Probation Service
- community rehabilitation company (CRC)
- social services
- family or carers
- external agencies such as home care.

### **Managing medicines on release or transfer from prison**

Hold a one-to-one discussion with the person to agree a plan for how they will take their medicine after their release from prison. This should include education about taking prescribed medicines. See also [examples of critical medicines \[See page 7\]](#).

Consider carrying out a medicines review for people who are assessed as needing extra support to manage their medicines on release or transfer from prison. For example:

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- people with TB, HIV, diabetes, substance misuse or mental health problems
  - people with neurodevelopmental disorders or learning disabilities
  - people receiving end of life care
  - older people
  - people serving long-term sentences.

When a person is discharged or transferred from prison give them a minimum of 7 days' prescribed medicines or an FP10 prescription, based on a risk assessment.

Set up a process to ensure that people being discharged or transferred at short notice from prison are given a supply of their medicines or are given an FP10 prescription.

For recommendations on care for people moving from prison to another care settings, see what NICE says on [communication during transfer of care](#).

## Quality standards

The following quality statement is relevant to this part of the interactive flowchart.

### Physical health of people in prisons

#### 5. Medicines on transfer or discharge

## Examples of critical medicines where timeliness of administration is crucial to prevent harm from missed and delayed doses

This table contains examples only and should be used in conjunction with clinical judgement. It is important to assess each person on an individual basis.

Area	Medicines
Cardiovascular system	Anticoagulants
	Nitrates
Respiratory system	Adrenoceptor agonists
	Antimuscarinic bronchodilators
	Adrenaline for allergic emergencies
Central nervous system	Anti-epileptic drugs
	Drugs used in psychoses and related disorders
	Drugs used in parkinsonism and related disorders
	Drugs used to treat substance misuse
Infections	As clinically indicated, such as anti-infectives or anti-retrovirals
Endocrine system	Corticosteroids

	Drugs used in diabetes
Obstetrics, gynaecology and urinary tract disorders	Emergency contraceptives
Malignant disease and immunosuppression	Drugs affecting the immune response
	Sex hormones and hormone antagonists in malignant disease – depot preparations
Nutrition and blood	Parenteral vitamins B and C
Eye	Corticosteroids and other anti-inflammatory preparations
	Local anaesthetics
	Mydriatics and cycloplegics
	Glaucoma treatment
Based on UKMi <a href="#">NPSA Rapid Response Report: Reducing harm from omitted and delayed medicines in hospital</a> . Revised January 2016.	

## Glossary

### acquired cognitive impairment

(any cognitive impairment that develops after birth, including traumatic brain injury, stroke, and neurodegenerative disorders such as dementia)

### FP10

(a prescription form – people who are released from prison unexpectedly can take an FP10 to a



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community pharmacy to receive their medicines free of charge until they can arrange to see their GP or register with a new GP)

**in-possession**

(medicine is said to be held in-possession if a person (usually in a prison or other secure setting) is responsible for holding and taking it themselves)

**multidisciplinary team**

(a group of professionals from different disciplines who each provide specific support to a person, working as a team – in prison settings, a multidisciplinary team may include physical and mental health professionals, prison staff, National Probation Service and/or community rehabilitation company (CRC) representatives, chaplains, and staff from other agencies, such as immigration services and social care staff)

**Sources**

Mental health of adults in contact with the criminal justice system (2017) NICE guideline NG66

Physical health of people in prison (2016) NICE guideline NG57

**Your responsibility****Guidelines**

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They

should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

### **Technology appraisals**

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

### **Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance**

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the

interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.