

Evidence Brief: Prison Healthcare Workforce

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Evidence Brief: Prison Healthcare Workforce

Produced by the Knowledge Management team Evidence Briefs offer an overview of the published reports, research, and evidence on a workforce-related topic.

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Key publications – the big picture

Short-term holding facilities service specification

NHS England, January 2025

NHS England is responsible for commissioning health services for people who are detained in short- term holding facilities. This service specification outlines what should be included and offered to patient populations in secure and detained environments.

Investigation report: Healthcare provision in prisons: continuity of care

Health Services Safety Investigations Body, November 2024

This report is intended for healthcare and justice organisations, policymakers and the public to help improve patient safety in relation to continuity of care for patients detained in prison.

Ensuring GP practices and community pharmacy are ready to support individuals being released early from prison as part of the initiative to help tackle prison pressures

NHS England, September 2024

Supported needed to ensure the continuity of care for individuals who will be released from prison as part of a [Ministry of Justice measure](#) to help relieve prison capacity pressures. Those eligible for this initiative will be released from prisons across England on 10 September 2024 and 22 October 2024.

Nursing preceptorship in adult prison healthcare – best practice guidance

NHS England, February 2024

This document is designed to support staff and organisations in the design and delivery of effective preceptorship programmes within adult prison healthcare services. This includes organisations that provide prison healthcare, leaders, managers, those working within human resources, practice development

nurses, senior nursing leaders and health and justice commissioners.

Prison Mental Health Services in England, 2023

Centre for Mental Health, 2023

See section 4 Teams, skills and processes

Nine out of ten prisoners have at least one mental health or substance misuse problem. Commissioned by NHS England, this report compares current levels of need with prison mental health provision. Centre for Mental Health conducted a survey of current English prison mental health caseloads, staffing, skills, gaps in need and processes.

Health and justice framework for integration 2022-2025: Improving lives – reducing inequality

NHS England, 2022

The strategic direction for health and justice and sexual assault services is set at a national level. Responsibility for commissioning these services is discharged at a regional level. Assurance is provided via reporting from the Health and Justice Oversight group over quality, performance, and value for money.

The health and justice inclusive workforce programme

NHS England

The health and justice inclusive workforce programme was created in response to the NHS People Plan (2020/21), to help enable health and justice commissioned services tackle issues relating to workforce recruitment and retention.

Injustice? Towards a better understanding of health care access challenges for prisoners?

Nuffield Trust, October 2021

Many prisoners still struggle to access hospital services despite their significant health care needs, and early data suggests the pandemic has worsened access further. In this report, we

consider new evidence relating to pre-existing health conditions before prison, the use of remote consultation, different ethnic groups' use of health services and the early impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The WHO Prison Health Framework: a framework for assessment of prison health system performance

World Health Organisation, 2021

p. 23 Health Performance (Workforce)

Universal health coverage (UHC), central to better health and well-being for all, delivers gains across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and embodies the 2030 Agenda pledge to leave no one behind (1). The WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13), adopted at the 2019 World Health Assembly, and the European Programme of Work, adopted in 2020, both reiterate the need to promote increased UHC and healthier populations.

How prison healthcare in England works

Nuffield Trust, October 2021

Prisoners tend to be of poorer health than the general population and have complex health care needs.

Service specifications for primary (medical and nursing) and dental care provision in prisons and immigration removal centres in England

NHS England, March 2020

These revised service specifications set out a modular approach to primary and dental care provision in prisons and immigration removal centres in England.

Prison Health

Health and Social Care Committee, October 2018

See p. 39 Workforce and pp. 60-61 Staffing

The Government is failing in its duty of care towards people detained in England's prisons. Too many prisoners remain in unsafe, unsanitary and outdated establishments. Violence and self-harm are at record highs. Most prisons exceed their certified normal accommodation level and a quarter of prisoners over the last two years have lived in overcrowded cells.

Working in West Midlands' Prisons: current provision, staff feedback and future opportunities in prison health and substance misuse services

NHS West Midlands, September 2010

This report sets out "findings about the prison health and substance misuse workforce in the West Midlands Region. It presents the current knowledge base on the workforce including employee sickness and absence rates, recruitment issues, employee engagement and future workforce plans.

Case Studies

Supporting workforce development in the health and justice sector

The Academy of Fab Stuff

Supporting workforce development in the health and justice sector NHS England South, South East, with funding from Health Education England has developed a range of tools to support nurse leaders in the retention and development of staff working in the health and justice sector. NHS England commissions health and substance misuse services in prisons, immigration removal centres, youth offender institutions and sexual assault referral centres across the UK.

The Star for workforce redesign

More resources and tools are available in [the Star](#)

Statistics

You can find relevant statistics on the [Health and Care Statistics Landscape](#) under “**Health and Care**”

[HM Prison and Probation Service workforce statistics](#)

HM Prison & Probation Service and Ministry of Justice
Information on staffing numbers of directly employed staff of HM Prison and Probation Service and formerly the National Offender Management Service.

National Data Programme

Workforce, Training and Education staff can look at the [National Data Warehouse \(NDL\)](#) SharePoint site to find out more about datasets and Tableau products.

Published Peer Reviewed Research

Allied Health Professionals

[Occupational Therapy in Carceral Settings: Qualitative Study of Practitioner Experiences and Perspectives](#) Abstract only*

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health 45(2), 2025

Scant evidence exists regarding occupational therapy in carceral settings. Exploring perspectives and experiences to understand current practices is needed. To explore how occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) navigate evaluation, interventions, and role delineation.

[Paramedics working in a prison-based healthcare setting: an exploratory mixed methods study](#)

British paramedic journal 4(4), 2020

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Prison healthcare departments recently started recruiting paramedics to assist in dealing with a rise in medical emergencies largely attributed to an aging prison population and an increase in novel psychoactive substance misuse. There has been little research investigating the paramedic role in this setting.

Education and Training

[Professional training of prison service workers in the Czech Republic: historical development, aspects of importance and current challenges](#) Abstract only*

International Journal of Prison Health, 2025

Abstract: PURPOSE: The purpose of this paper is to analyse the historical development and current challenges of professional training for prison service staff in the Czech Republic. This study focuses on the transition from a repressive system under

communism to a democratic approach emphasising human rights, ethics and professionalisation.

Remote mental health first aid training for correctional officers: A pilot study Full text available with NHS OpenAthens account* Psychological Services 21(2), 2024.

Abstract: Mental health first aid (MHFA) training is a low-cost, evidence-based intervention that teaches trainees to recognize signs of mental distress. Thirty correctional officers (COs) were recruited to participate in a remote MHFA intervention study. The COs were divided into three MHFA training sessions, with no more than 10 COs per group. Data collection assessments included pretest and posttest surveys and a focus group meeting.

Motivation and training needs of prison healthcare professionals: findings from a qualitative study BMC Psychology 11(1), 2023

Abstract: Health care in prison is a challenging task. The conditions of imprisonment create distinct difficulties for those providing health care in this setting. These particular circumstances have led to a shortage of quality professionals, working for the health of imprisoned people. The aim of this study is to elaborate reasons for healthcare professionals to work in a prison environment.

Correctional nurse education and training to care for and support prisoners with dementia: A systematic review of text and opinion

Abstract only* JBI Evidence Synthesis 20(5), 2022

Abstract: Objective: The objective of this review was to synthesize the best available evidence on the training required for correctional nurses to care for and support prisoners with dementia. Introduction: Nurses caring for people in aged care facilities receive training related to aging and dementia; however,

this has not carried across to training for the increasing aging population within correctional settings

A review of primary care training programs in correctional health for physicians Abstract only*

Publication Details: Teaching and learning in medicine 24(1), 2012

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Despite the health consequences of incarceration, there are no national standards for teaching physicians about correctional health. The purpose of this study was to survey existing correctional health training programs for primary care physicians.

Fulfilling the mission of academic medicine: training residents in the health needs of prisoners

Journal of general internal medicine, 25 Suppl 2, 2010

Abstract: The single mission of academic medicine is the pursuit of health for all. This mandate serves as a reminder to focus care on vulnerable and underserved populations. The 12 million Americans who cycle through correctional facilities each year are arguably among the most vulnerable populations in this country; predominantly black, with a high burden of disease and many barriers to care after release.

Health, wellbeing and burnout

A Canadian national study of provincial and territorial correctional workers' suicidal ideation, plans, and attempts

Stress and Health : Journal of the International Society for the Investigation of Stress 40(5), 2024

Abstract: Correctional workers (CWs) endure several operational stressors (e.g., exposures to potentially psychologically traumatic events) and organisational stressors (e.g., shift work, staff shortages), which are associated with positive screens for mental disorders and self-reports of suicidal behaviours and thus

urgently warrant further inquiry. The Canadian Provincial and Territorial Correctional Worker Mental Health and Well-Being Study (CWMH) used an online survey to collect data from Canadian correctional service organisations across all 13 provinces and territories.

The interdependence of caring, safety, and health in correctional settings: Analysis of a survey of security staff in a large county jail system

Social Science & Medicine (1982) 358, 2024.

Abstract: The health of incarcerated populations is intertwined with the health of security staff, but the social mechanisms, and especially the specific interventions, that might mitigate these health harms are underexplored. We examine one possible mechanism of interrelated health harms: whether and how jail security staff are willing and able to care for mentally ill detainees.

Working Conditions and Wellbeing among Prison Nurses during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Comparison to Community Nurses

International Journal of Environment Research and Public Health 19(17), September 2022

The psychological health and work challenges of nurses working in prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic are understudied. We evaluated the work and wellbeing characteristics of a California prison nurse group, with a comparison to those of a community nurse group. From May to November 2020, an online survey measured psychosocial and organizational work factors, sleep habits, psychological characteristics, COVID-19 impacts, and pre-pandemic recall among 62 prison nurses and 47 community nurses.

Work-Life and Well-Being in U.K. Therapeutic Prison Officers: A Thematic Analysis Abstract only*

Publication Details: International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 62(14), 2018

Abstract: Previous research has clearly demonstrated the positive impact of therapeutic interventions on offenders' well-being. Much less is known about the impact on prison staff facilitating and delivering such interventions. We employed qualitative methodology to capture a deeper understanding of the work of therapeutic prison officers. Seven prison officers working in a U.K.

Reducing burnout in nurses and care workers in secure settings

Abstract only*

Nursing standard 28(34), 2014

Abstract: AIM: To identify which educational interventions reduce burnout and promote wellbeing in nurses and care workers in secure settings., METHOD: A systematic review of health, educational and criminal justice literature was undertaken to appraise relevant studies and identify educational interventions that were effective in reducing burnout.

Leadership

The role of positive leadership in influencing recreational and extracurricular (R&E) programs to address mental wellbeing of prisoners Abstract only*

International Journal of Prison Health 21(1), 2025

PURPOSE: Mental health issues such as stress, anxiety and depression are prevalent among the prisoners, highlighting the urgent need to address mental health challenges in prison facilities. Existing research highlights the crucial role of recreational and extracurricular (R&E) programs in promoting the mental well-being of prisoners.

Learning from Covid-19

"It was really poor prior to the pandemic. It got really bad after": A qualitative study of the impact of COVID-19 on prison healthcare in England

BMC Health & Justice 11(6), February 2023

Background: The impact of COVID-19 has been exceptional, particularly on the National Health Service which has juggled COVID affected patients alongside related staff shortages and the existing (and growing) health needs of the population. In prisons too, healthcare teams have been balancing patient needs against staffing shortfalls, but with additional strains unique to the prison population.

Multidisciplinary teams

Multidisciplinary team working in an adult male prison establishment in the UK

Publication Details: British dental journal 217(3), 2014

Abstract: The first two articles in this series exploring the oral and dental health of male prisoners in the UK demonstrated how the general and oral health of prisoners is compromised compared to those of a similar age who are not prisoners. In caring for the oral health needs of this group the high demand for emergency dental services often precludes the delivery of preventive and routine care.

Nursing

The emergence of custodial health nursing as a specialty whose time has come: An Australian experience Abstract only*

International nursing review, 2022

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Nurses provide healthcare in prisons worldwide. Working within security restraints, in environments not designed for nursing care, custodial health nurses (CHNs)

use specialist nursing skills and knowledge to do essential work. Rapid increases in prisoner age, infirmity and ill-health of prisoners mandate their access to these nurses.

Dementia in prisons: the Admiral Nurse offer

Source: British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing 16(3), June 2020

Dementia is an increasingly common condition, affecting over 50 million people worldwide, with approximately 850 000 living with dementia in the UK. In recent years, there has been a significant rise in the number of older prisoners, many of whom may also have dementia; however, there is little in the literature about the needs of this population.

Moral distress in correctional nurses: A national survey

Nursing ethics 27(1), 2020

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Moral distress is an increasingly documented problem in nursing and might foster nurses' intention to leave their workplace. It has been studied in different settings, but no specific research has been conducted in Italian correctional facilities.

Prison Nurses' Professional Identity Abstract only*

Journal of forensic nursing, 15 (3), 2019

Abstract: In the United Kingdom, health and justice services nurses are a diverse group working across a range of contexts and settings such as police custody, sexual assault referral centers, young offenders' institutes, and prisons and probation. Recruitment and retention to the specialist field of health and justice services nursing, specifically prison nursing, is problematic in the United Kingdom.

Prison nursing: Formation of a stable professional identity

Abstract only*

Journal of Forensic Nursing, 13(1), 2017

Abstract: Aim: The aim of this study was to analyze how working within prison environments can influence the self-identity and professional identity of nurses.

Nursing care of prisoners: Staff views and experiences

Publication Details: Journal of advanced nursing, 66 (6), 2010

Abstract: Aim: This paper is a report of a study of the views and experiences of nurses and other prison healthcare staff about their roles and the nursing care they provide to prisoners.

Patient experience

What are the sources of patient experience feedback in the UK prison setting, and what do patients and healthcare staff think about giving and receiving feedback in prison?: a qualitative study

Patient Experience Journal 9(1), 2022

Abstract: BACKGROUND: The collection of patient experience feedback (PEF) has seen a marked global increase in the past decade. Research about PEF has concentrated mainly on hospital settings albeit a recent interest in primary care. There has been minimal research about PEF in the prison healthcare setting.

Peer Support

Peer support for adult social care in prisons in England and Wales: a mixed-methods rapid evaluation

Health and Social Care Delivery Research 13(1), 2025

Abstract: Background: More adults in prison need social care support. In some prisons, prisoners ('buddies') are trained to provide social care support for non-personal care tasks to other

prisoners. These services are not mandated but have been proposed as a solution to support social care provision in prisons.

Pharmacy and prescribing

Exploring the challenges to safer prescribing and medication monitoring in prisons: A qualitative study with health care staff

PloS one, 17(11) 2022

Abstract: INTRODUCTION: Research suggests that patients who are prisoners experience greater morbidity, increased health inequalities and frequent preventable harm, compared to the general population. Little is known about the process and influencing factors for safe prescribing in the unique prison environment, which may limit the development efforts to improve the quality of care in prisons.

Clinical Pharmacist Services on Admission to a Large Correctional Center Abstract only*

Journal of correctional health care: the official journal of the National

Commission on Correctional Health Care, 26(2), 2020

Abstract: The clinical role of pharmacists in a correctional facility has not been fully described. We report the proportion of patients assessed by a pharmacist within 48 hours of admission to a large correctional facility. Of those assessed, the frequency and type of pharmacist interventions were described.

Clinical Pharmacists in Correctional Facilities: A Literature Review and Future Directions Abstract only*

Journal of correctional health care : the official journal of the National

Commission on Correctional Health Care, 25(3), 2019

Abstract: The role of pharmacists has undergone a significant transformation. Expanding clinical roles in the community and

hospital settings have led to opportunity for correctional facility pharmacists to expand their practice. This literature review identifies past and present roles of correctional pharmacists, along with areas for growth.

Defining the Role of the Pharmacy Technician and Identifying Their Future Role in Medicines Optimisation

Pharmacy (Basel, Switzerland) 5(3), 2017

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Traditionally, pharmacy technicians have worked alongside pharmacists in community and hospital pharmacy. Changes within pharmacy provide opportunity for role expansion and with no apparent career pathway, there is a need to define the current pharmacy technician role and role in medicines optimisation., AIM: To capture the current roles of pharmacy technicians and identify how their future role will contribute to medicines optimisation

Placements

Nursing students' lived experience of a clinical placement in prison healthcare: A systematic review

Nurse Education in Practice 65, November 2022

Aim: A systematic review of the literature to explore nursing students' lived experience of a clinical placement in a healthcare setting in a prison, to identify how and if their needs were met to enable an optimal learning environment. Background: There is an increasing demand for clinical placements to support undergraduate/prelicense nurse education, especially within primary and community healthcare settings.

Seeing is believing: The effect of prison-based insight-days on student nurses' perceptions of undertaking practice placements within a prison healthcare environment

Abstract only*

Nurse Education in Practice 45, May 2020

Prisoners' access to healthcare should mirror that of the general public, but is adversely affected by challenges in recruiting nurses to work in custodial settings, potentially impacting on prisoner well-being.

"I just had no idea what it was like to be in prison and what might be helpful": Educator and Learner views on Clinical Placements in Correctional Health

Abstract only*

Teaching and Learning in Medicine 32(3), February 2020

Phenomenon: Correctional health services can provide quality learning experiences for medical students and graduate medical trainees, including through motivating learners to work with people involved with the justice system, and promoting understanding of the social determinants of health.

Medical student experiences in prison health services and social cognitive career choice: a qualitative study

BMC Medical Education 18(3), 2018

Background: One of the purposes of undergraduate medical education is to assist students to consider their future career paths in medicine, alongside the needs of the societies in which they will serve. Amongst the most medically underserved groups of society are people in prison and those with a history of incarceration.

Primary Care

Understanding and improving the quality of primary care for people in prison: a mixed-methods study

NIHR Health and Social Care Delivery Research 12(46), November 2024

People in prison are generally in poorer health than their peers in the community, often living with chronic illness and multimorbidity. Healthcare research in prisons has largely focused on specific problems, such as substance use; less

attention has been paid to conditions routinely managed in primary care, such as diabetes or hypertension. It is important to understand how primary care in prisons is currently delivered in the United Kingdom and how it can be improved, in order to reduce health inequalities.

Understanding the organisational influences on the quality of and access to primary care in English prisons: a qualitative interview study

British Journal of General Practice 73(735), 2023

Background: Primary care for routine healthcare conditions is delivered to thousands of people in the English prison estate every day but the prison environment presents unique challenges to the provision of high-quality health care. Little research has focused on the organisational factors that affect quality of and access to prison health care.

Quality

Improving health in prisons - from evidence to policy to implementation - experiences from the UK Abstract only*

International Journal of Prisoner Health 13(3-4), 2017

Purpose The purpose of this paper is to understand the components of a high-quality prison healthcare system and the impact, ten-years on, of the transfer of accountability in England, from a justice ministry to a health ministry.

Retention

Social identity and the prison health worker: Implications for practitioner satisfaction and turnover intentions Abstract only*

Health care management review 44(4), 2019

Abstract: Background: Delivering health care within the prison walls poses distinct and arduous challenges to the practitioner. Correctional health workers regularly face issues of

overcrowding, increased prevalence of infectious disease, advancing age, deteriorating conditions, and patients with an inclination for violence. Still, regardless of the sizeable workforce, costs, and impact on community well-being, correctional health is often overlooked in health services delivery research.

Nurse retention in a correctional facility: a study of the relationship between the nurses' perceived barriers and benefits

Abstract only*

Journal of correctional health care : the official journal of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care 19(2), 2013

Abstract: Retention of nursing staff is more complex in a correctional facility. After a period of 3 years, only 20% of the staff remained employed at this study facility. Without retention of qualified correctional nurses, there are decreases in access to care, gaps in continuity of care, and less time for mentorship.

Shortages

Addressing Shortages of Mental Health Professionals in U.S. Jails and Prisons Abstract only*

Journal of correctional health care: the official journal of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care 28(4), 2022
Abstract: Many jails and prisons in the United States do not have enough mental health professionals (MHPs) to meet the mental health needs of the people incarcerated in these facilities. This article examines strategies used to address MHP shortages in U.S. jails and prisons, including compensation incentives, telemental health services, interdisciplinary health care, flexible work schedules, and training rotations in correctional settings.

Can we address the shortage of psychiatrists in the correctional setting with exposure during residency training? Full text available with NHS OpenAthens account*

Community mental health journal 48(6), 2012pp.
Abstract: Psychiatry residents at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center were surveyed to investigate their attitudes towards inmates, towards various aspects of correctional psychiatry and whether rotating at the local jail is associated with these attitudes.

Secondary care

Secondary care clinicians and staff have a key role in delivering equivalence of care for prisoners: a qualitative study of prisoners' experiences

eClinical Medicine 24, July 2020

Background: While challenging to provide, prisoners are entitled to healthcare equivalent to community patients. This typically involves them travelling to hospitals for secondary care, whilst adhering to the prison's operational security constraints. Better understanding of equivalence issues this raises may help hospitals and prisons consider how to make services more inclusive and accessible to prisoners.

Volunteering

Volunteering in prisons: a systematic review and narrative synthesis

Public Health 220, 2023

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Individuals from the community who volunteer within prisons are an understudied population, despite previous research indicating the increase in involvement of the penal voluntary sector and benefits to both prisons and prisoners from effective implementation of volunteer programmes.

Book Chapter

Role of pharmacist in provision of clinical services in prisons

Abstract only*

Encyclopaedia of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Pharmacy
This chapter describes the organization of the health care system in prison, health care facilities available for the prisoners and role of pharmacist in providing such facilities to the prisoners. It also outlines various challenges that a pharmacist experiences while delivering the clinical services in prison.

eLearning

Nursing Adult Prison Healthcare Settings

NHS England eLearning for Healthcare

The Nursing in Adult Prison Healthcare Settings programme has been developed to support nursing colleagues who may be interested in a healthcare career within adult prison settings. The programme has been developed to support specific learning opportunities for pre-registration and registered nurses, and registered nursing associates. Nurses and nursing associates work in a wide range of health and justice settings, which includes adult male prisons.

Introduction to Health and Justice Careers

NHS England eLearning for Healthcare

This elearning session is designed to provide a basic overview of the services commissioned by NHS England, Health and Justice, and the career options within these services. This includes services that provide healthcare within the criminal justice system, immigration removal centres, sexual assault referral centres and also healthcare within the children and young people's secure estate.

Health and Justice Pharmacy (prisons and secure environments)

Source: Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education

In the news

Podcast: My experience working in the hidden world of prison pharmacy

Chemist and Druggist, August 2022

Shortly after Ms Oshi-Ojuri graduated from the University of Manchester, she hit a crossroad. She'd undertaken her pre-reg working in community pharmacy at Day Lewis before beginning to work as a locum. "I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do next," she tells C+D's reporter Emily Stearn in a podcast (listen below). Stuck between continuing with community or testing the waters in hospital pharmacy, an opportunity then arose as a clinical prison pharmacist in the Belmarsh, Thameside and Isis prisons in Greenwich. She accepted the job.

Prison healthcare in Wales suffers 'significant workforce challenges', RPS says

The Pharmaceutical Journal, May 2019

There are several challenges facing prison healthcare in Wales that are impacting the quality of services, including problems in recruiting adequate numbers of staff.

Dispensing behind bars: life as a prison pharmacist

Chemist and Druggist, January 2018

A pharmacist speaks honestly to C+D about his experiences working in one of the largest prisons in England.

What I do as a pharmacist in the prison service

The Pharmaceutical Journal, April 2016

An interest in substance misuse led pharmacist Christine Rowlands to work in Health and Justice services.

Competency Frameworks

Sexual and Reproductive Health Competency Framework for Women Cared for in Prison

Royal College of Nursing, September 2024

This competencies framework has been developed for nurses, midwives, and those supporting nursing teams, who provide sexual and reproductive health care to women in prison. It takes account of nursing teams who may have limited experience caring for pregnant women.

Career and Competence Framework for the Adult Secure and Detained Estate

Skills for Health

This Career and Competence Framework was commissioned by Health Education England, South East and NHS England and NHS Improvement. Providing healthcare in secure, sensitive, and complex environments requires a wide range of roles and specific expertise.

Career and Competence Framework for the Children and Young People's Complex Needs Pathway

Skills for Health

This Career and Competence Framework was commissioned by Health Education England, South East and NHS England and NHS Improvement. It is based on the needs of the [NHS Long Term Plan 2019](#) which makes a commitment to invest in additional support for the most vulnerable children and young people, between the ages of 0-18, who have complex needs and can be described as presenting with high risk, high harm behaviours and high vulnerability.

Non-custodial Career and Competence Framework

Skills for Health

NHS England commissioned Skills for Health to develop a Non-custodial Career and Competence Framework. Building on previous work to develop Career and Competence Frameworks for Liaison & Diversion services, the Adult Secure and Detained Estate and Children and Young People (complex needs pathway), the Non-custodial Career and Competence Framework will ensure that identified roles within Healthcare in Criminal Court Settings, Mental Health Treatment Requirements and RECONNECT and Enhanced RECONNECT services have clearly articulated competences for each identified role, the learning and development required, as well as any necessary on-going professional development.

Professional Standards for optimising medicines for people in secure environments

Royal Pharmaceutical Society, February 2017

In 2003 the Department of Health published “A Pharmacy Service for Prisoners”¹. This made 30 recommendations which set out a way forward in the development of more patient focused, primary care based pharmacy services to prisoners based on identified need. Implementation of these recommendations, coupled with the transfer of commissioning of health and pharmacy services to the NHS in 2005, has resulted in improved pharmacy services for people in prison with improved medicines governance and a larger pharmacy workforce that deliver these services and support the wider healthcare and custodial teams.