

CONSIDERATION FOR SUPPORTING PATIENTS FROM PRISONS - ATTENDING SANDYFORD SERVICES

Patients:

- Should have their confidentiality respected at all times
- Disproportionately come from deprived backgrounds
- Often have very significant sexual health needs
- Should be offered the full range of Sandyford sexual and reproductive health services as appropriate including contraception
- May access existing community based primary health services poorly
- Can be referred by letter. Those attending the clinic within Greenock prison self refer or are referred by prison health centre staff.
- Need to be accompanied by Prisoner Escorting Services for appointments out of the prison – this is very resource-intensive, and every effort should be taken to achieve as much as possible during the out-patient visit.
- Late arrivals should be viewed sympathetically in view of the logistical difficulties
- If they have failed to attend – they may have left prison or been transferred. If indicated, further follow-up should be attempted via their home address. If the DNA is due to escort problems, then the prison will usually contact us beforehand and set-up new appointment day/time.

Security:

- Is the responsibility of the accompanying prisoner escorting team and security arrangements will depend on the security category of the prisoner and if special arrangements in place this would be communicated to Sandyford Management Team by the Scottish Prison Service and/or Police.
- Most will come handcuffed to security staff member, but a long closet chain is usually brought used to allow the patient a degree of privacy.
- Where necessary you can ask to interview the patient without the security staff member, present – use an internal, window-free room.
- If the security staff member, insists on being present ask for the use of a “closet chain” – this will allow you to examine the patient with the security staff member on the other side of the curtain.

Investigations:

- Investigate as clinically appropriate
- Testing may already have been done by prison services please check Portal

Treatments:

Sandyford staff can contact prison pharmacy provider who will supply most medications to the client in prison.

Alternatively, supply of medications from Sandyford stock is dependent on the client. If the client has no issues such as addictions or vulnerabilities and can hold their own medications, the medications can be given to them in sealed envelopes. The prison officer does not need to know about this.

If the client is categorised as having addiction issues or is vulnerable all medication supply will be supervised by the security staff member or Prison Officer for attention of NHS Prison Health Care staff on return to prison.

Further Information:

- For issues affecting individual prisoners, please contact relevant health care centre at specific prisons.
- Prison contact details via main switchboards as detailed above.

Follow Up:

- Prisoners should not be informed of the specific date or time of their follow up appointment. Any future appointments should be via the prison health centre.
- Ascertain date of court appearance or liberation as a guide to follow up.
- Discuss with Prison Officers or Prison health centre managers - security and logistical considerations may be important.
- Ensure full social history is completed on NASH
- Add all clients to the Sandyford Inclusion team virtual diary.

For further procedural advice, please contact the relevant prison's healthcare manager.

Appendix

Sandyford Services see prisoners from the following institutions:

(From SPS annual report 2017-2018)

Prison (male)	Prisoner Type	Average Number of Prisoners	Daily
Barlinnie 0141 770 2000	Adult male serving >4 years and reception of men from courts. Also remand and life sentence offenders approaching a potential release date. Segregation unit of sex offenders and protection prisoners.	1126 1 young offender	
Greenock (near Inverclyde) 01475 787 801	Adult male and female offenders with short and long term sentences and on remand	194	
HMP and YOI Polmont 01324711558	National facility for young offenders aged 16 to 21. Average sentence 2 to 4 years.	51 331 young offenders	

(Young offenders institute)		
Low Moss 0141 762 9500	Convicted and remand prisoners with link facility to support reintegration back to community.	757
Shotts 01501 824 000	Long term adult prisoners serving >8 years.	531
Prison (female)	Prisoner Type	Average Daily Number of Prisoners
Cornton Vale (Stirlingshire) 01786 832 591	Remand and sentenced prisoners. Includes 7 mother and baby places and 18 spaces in independent living units.	84 2 young offenders
Greenock 01475 787 801	Women housed in Darroch Hall	54
Lilias Community Custody Unit	Woman convicted preparing for liberation.	14 (24 capacity)
Polmont 01324711558 (Young offenders institute)		80 8 young offenders
SCCRS should be checked and correspondence updated for all female prisoners attending. A smear should always be taken if due		

Sandyford services also provide a women's sexual health clinic from within Greenock Prison Health Centre, on the last Wednesday of each month. . A Sandyford sexual health nurse attends the clinic.