

Royal College
of Nursing

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

CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE



corporate.communications@rcn.org.uk

RCN Legal Disclaimer

Notes



Introduction

How is prison health care delivered?

england.nhs.uk/commissioning/health-just

phw.nhs.wales/topics/prison-health-in-wales

setrust.hscni.net/service/healthcare-in-prison

Older women in prison

Pregnancy and childbirth, midwives and health visitors

Position statement on maternity care for women in prison in England and Wales
Birth Companions Birth Charter
Maternity Standards

RCOG

Babies in prison

Sexual and reproductive health competencies for supporting women in prison

Table 1: Who the framework is for and how it can be used

Who is the framework for?	What is the framework for?
Registered nurses, nursing support workers (including nursing associates), midwives	Standards of care Career pathway
Non-health care custodial staff	Information and developing understanding of health care professional roles
Managers including nurse leaders	Workforce planning; professional performance review; training needs analysis; continued professional development
Employers	Workforce planning; recruitment; standard job descriptions
Commissioners	Background for monitoring fitness for purpose against key performance indicators (KPIs)
NMC and regulatory/ inspection bodies for Prison and Probation Ombudsman	Benchmark standards for care for quality assurance measure Benchmark for measuring standards of care in fitness to practice hearings

How can the competencies be used?

rcnlearn.rcn.org.uk/Search/Sexual-health-education-directory

nmc.org.uk/revalidation

Table 2: Sexual and reproductive health competencies for supporting women in prison

Competency Details	Clinical (C) Education (E) Leadership (L) Research (R)	Health care support practitioners (HCP)	Nursing associates (ENGLAND ONLY)	RN & M newly qualified/new to prison care.	RN & M enhanced/specialist practice	Existing competence frameworks/information to support best practice
History-taking/risk assessment/reception screening						
Completion of initial reception screen, which includes history of pregnancy within the last 12 months, identifying any possibility of pregnancy etc.	C	*				nice.org.uk/guidance/ng57/chapter/Recommendations gov.uk/government/publications/womens-policy-framework * HCP to be deemed competent and practice under the supervision of a registered nurse
Completion of secondary assessment to identify any ongoing fertility treatment, more detailed obstetric history and sexual health history	C	*				gov.uk/government/publications/womens-policy-framework * HCP to be deemed competent and practice under the supervision of a registered nurse
Completion of clinical observations including NEWS2 (National Early Warning Score2), COWS (Clinical Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol scale)	C					
Pregnancy testing	C					

Menstrual health

Comfortably initiate a conversation about menstrual wellbeing and provide sanitary products and issue a menstrual diary if required	C					rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/promoting-menstrual-wellbeing-11.4-s-8.1 (91 Tf0 TT0 -1.116470)

Sexual health						
1 Communication						
Practitioner can recognise an appropriate location to discuss any sexual health concerns, for example, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), in a confidential setting	C					BASHH (2023) Standards for the Management of Sexual Health in UK Prisons bashh.org/professionals/special_interest_groups/28/prison_sig/public
Practitioner can outline limitations of confidentiality discussed with patient, providing reassurance about confidential nature of the conversation where appropriate	C					BASHH guidelines for those working in sex industry bashh.org/news/1408/invitation_to_respond_to_a_consultation_on_clinical_standards_for_the_sexual_health_management_of_people_involved_in_sex_work
Practitioner can raise the subject of sexual health/STIs in an appropriate and sensitive manner	C					Making Every Contact Count e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/making-every-contact-count
Practitioner can discuss sexual risk and ensure that relevant interventions are made when starting time in prison, in particular if they are time-dependent for example, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV after sexual exposure/emergency contraception	C	-	-			Specialist Pharmacy Service sps.hms.uk/?cat%5B0%5D=2995&cat%5B1%5D=3639&s=eLfh
Confidently provide education on sexual health topics, including safer sex practices and STIs, in preparation for release from prison, as a part of the release plan	C	an5 (r).3 (e)-8.5 (p)-8.9 (a)-2.%	as a p283.085.576.863.Tm044.r.8591.949.0.Td0039			Sexual health education directory rcn.org.uk/Log-In?returnUrl=https%3a%2f%2frcn.org.uk%2fclinical-topics%2fPublic-health%2fSexual-health%2fSexual-health-education-directory
						Integrated Sexual Health Service Specification 2023 assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1143246/Integrated-sexual-health-service-specification-2023.pdf

3 Provision of physical care to support general health and wellbeing, as well as that which is specific to sexual health:

<p>An effective triage process should be in place, so those with clinically urgent needs, those who can be managed by non-specialists within the prison health care setting and those who require specialist care (Level 3) can be assessed and referred to most appropriate care setting</p>	<p>C and L</p>	<p>-</p>				<p>england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-review-of-health-and-social-care-in-womens-prisons</p>
<p>Able to offer routine screen for chlamydia as part of the chlamydia</p>						





References and further reading

Tackling Double Disadvantage agendaalliance.org/our-work/projects-and-campaigns/tackling-double-disadvantage

The Young Women's Justice Project agendaalliance.org/news/new-report-reveals-criminal-justice-system-harming-vulnerable-girls-and-young-women

Birth Charter for women in prisons in England and Wales
hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/birth-companions/atg/n748.1415.613g14s63

Concordat on women in or at risk of contact with the Criminal Justice System.
[gov.uk/government/publications/concordat-on-women-in-or-at-risk-of-contact-with-the-criminal-justice-system](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/concordat-on-women-in-or-at-risk-of-contact-with-the-criminal-justice-system)

Prison life [gov.uk/life-in-prison](https://www.gov.uk/life-in-prison)

Pregnancy, MBUs and maternal separation in women's prisons Policy Framework.
[gov.uk/government/publications/pregnancy-mbus-and-maternal-separation-in-womens-prisons-policy-framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pregnancy-mbus-and-maternal-separation-in-womens-prisons-policy-framework)

Care and Management of Pregnant Women in Detention.
assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/564431/DSO_05_2016_-_Pregnant_Women_In_Detention.pdf

Women's Prison Expectations.
justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/our-expectations/womens-prison-expectations

Independent investigation into the death of Baby Aishah MP Bronze field on 27 September 2019
[ppo.gov.uk/news/ppo-ombudsman-sue-mcallister-publishes-independent-investigation-into-the-tragic-death-of-a-baby-at-bronnheld](https://www.ppo.gov.uk/news/ppo-ombudsman-sue-mcallister-publishes-independent-investigation-into-the-tragic-death-of-a-baby-at-bronnheld)

Standards of proficiency for midwives

nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-midwives/standards-of-proficiency-for-midwives

My Future, My Midwife programme

nmc.org.uk/about-us/our-role/who-we-regulate/midwifery/education

nmc.

Motherhood In The Justice System

nmc.org.uk/justice-podcast-motherhood-in-the-justice-system

onesmallthing.

RCN quality assurance

Publication

Description

The Nine Quality Standards

Evaluation

