

European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

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Inspection of a prison medical service by a CPT doctor

Checklist

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I. Initial interview with the doctor in charge (or managerial staff)

Questions to put

A. Medical/nursing team

- Number of doctors, nurses, auxiliaries (full-time/part-time; other employment)
- Presence of staff in prison (times of arrival and departure)
- Training; qualifications; remuneration terms (same as public hospitals)
- Involvement of third parties in care: guards, prisoners?

B. Outside medical support

- Back-up hospitals for emergencies/serious conditions?
- Specialist outside consultations (what, who, when?)
- Method and conditions of medical transfer of sick prisoners (in particular in case of emergencies)

C. Medical care work

1) Volume

- New prisoners: number per month, content of medical examination upon admission
- Consultations during imprisonment: number, access arrangements (oral/written requests, requests giving reasons, checks/vetoes possible)
- Emergencies: procedure during/outside working hours; medical staff on call in prison: who?
- Medical service also responsible for prison staff/families?

2) Main ailments encountered

- Type / specific ailments encountered by the service
- List of deaths: causes, autopsies conducted?

3) Dental care

- Frequency of consultations / number of patients per consultation / care provided free of charge

4) Drug addiction

- Drug addicts (attitude of medical service, withdrawal programmes, information for prisoners)
- Seizure of illegal drugs within the prison

5) Transmissible diseases (HIV, hepatitis, TB, etc)

- Screening methods (compulsory / on request)
- Conditions and criteria for isolation
- Treatment (compulsory? Checks that medicines are taken?)
- Condoms, needles provided, disinfectants
- Information measures

6) Medicines and equipment

- Sufficient quantity / suppliers / free of charge / frequency of distribution

D. Non-care work / expertise

1) Ill-treatment

- Number / type of cases (police, prison guards, fellow prisoners)
- Medical certificates concerning traumatic injuries:
 - arrangements for drafting: who may request/consult them
 - allegations/objective findings/conclusions
 - specific register / involvement of forensic doctor

2) Disciplinary sanctions

- Involvement of doctor in decision-making
- Medical supervision of disciplinary isolation measures? Frequency?

3) Miscellaneous

- Certificates indicating prisoners unfit for detention
- Monitoring of kitchens / checks on food?
- Hunger strikes (administrative instructions?)
- Care of pregnant women / mothers and infants
- Biomedical research: staff / prisoners involved; board of ethics; type of consent
- Suicide Prevention

E. Files / records

- Number and types
- Confidentiality

F. General atmosphere

- Relations between members of the medical service and prisoners / guards
- Confidentiality of consultations
- Relations with doctors / nurses outside the prison system

II. Inspection of medical service premises

- Number of rooms / type / general hygiene
- Checking of apparatus / equipment
- Pharmacy: quantity and range of medicines / expiry dates

III. Infirmary

- Number of rooms / beds / distribution of patients
- Confidential interviews with a few patients, followed by checking of their medical files

IV. Final talk with the doctor in charge (or managerial staff)

- Flag up any contradictions between the statements made by the medical team and :
 - the findings made during the visit to the premises
 - prisoners' complaints (supported by files)
 - the observations of the other members of the delegation