



Practice Plus Group

Safe Transfer of Medicines and FP10s

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HMP Bullingdon is a local remand and resettlement prison, with an operational capacity when fully operational of 12000 men.

It is not uncommon for Bullingdon to receive upwards of 17 new receptions every day, with at least 10-12 court transfers and on average 5 releases each day. Approximately 1/3 of the men take some form of medication be this for treatment of long term conditions or opiate substitutes.

The men come from a wide catchment area this can see them being released to areas such as Swindon or attending court in Berkshire.

Each transfer has to have medications with them, or the ability to obtain those medications such as an FP10.



The Journey

Mr A seen in reception for court

Seen by practitioner and medications and FP10 issued

Collected by transport and property, medication and FP10 given to transport officer

Bus collects other men on route to court

Bus arrives at court

All men, property, medicines and FP10s are handed to court officer

Court is heard

Mr A is either released all property, medication and FP10 are given to him by court

Mr A returns to prison all property, medication and FP10s are returned

Mr A seen on arrival back in prison – back to cell with property

Process starts again if a return to court the following day is required



Is the process fail safe?

- There are multiple points where medication can be misplaced
- Multiple hand offs, who takes ownership

Governance/responsibility?

- Who is responsible for medications once they leave the prison
- What happens if Mr A calls and says he never received medication
- What happens if Mr A takes too much medication/not enough?
- What happens if medication is given to someone else





- Datix 1 – Mr A released from court on a Friday afternoon, called the community Substance misuse service asking about Methadone as had not been given FP10, they call the prison who discover FP10 had been sent to court but was with paperwork and therefore missed by court Clerk. Fortunately between prison healthcare and community services Mr A was given a prescription.
- Datix 2 – Mr B was returned to prison from court, seen and sent back to cell by healthcare. Following morning went to medication hatch and handed over to them all his medication that had been returned to him in his property bag.
- Datix 3 – Mr C discovered he had been given Mr D's on release from court.
- Feedback from forums with men.
- Feel unsafe if have lots of medication on release
- Don't always know how to take it when to take it no one explains if released from court
- Feel it is a lot of pressure

Potential Solution



How to establish secure transfer

- There are multiple points where medication can be misplaced – Evidence bags are easy to identify
- Multiple hand offs, who takes ownership – Each person signs to say they have taken ownership

Governance/responsibility?

- Who is responsible for medications once they leave the prison – Each person who signs takes responsibility
- What happens if Mr A calls and says he never received medication he signs to say he has taken it
- What happens if Mr A takes too much medication/not enough? There are clear instructions in the bag with a number to call
- What happens if medication is given to someone else – Each bag is assigned by number to the individual this is recorded on the sheet





The New Journey

Mr A seen in reception for court

Seen by practitioner and medications and FP10 issued – Placed in evidence bag and the number of bag is recorded on SystemOne and handover sheet

Collected by transport and property and evidence bag given to transport officer, signs to say he has taken possession

Bus collects other men on route to court

Bus arrives at court

All men, property and evidence bags are handed to court officer, court officer signs to say they have taken possession

Court is heard

Mr A is either released all property and evidence bag are given to him by court, Mr a signs to say he has taken possession

Mr A returns to prison all property and evidence bag are signed back in

Mr A seen on arrival back in prison – back to cell with property

Process starts again if a return to court the following day is required



- Men released and asked feel safer leaving court with evidence bag as it is not obvious it contains medication
- We have had no datix regarding the men not getting medications
- No one has been returned to the cell with medications still in possession

- Healthcare staff like the process as it gives them assurance
- Prison staff like the process as it is clear when its handed over and it reduces risk of error

