

The Offender Healthcare Service
**The physical demands of working at HMP
Wandsworth**

Guidelines for Registered Nurses and Health Care Assistants working at HMP Wandsworth



Designed and built in the Victoria era, HMP Wandsworth opened in 1851. Consequently the buildings that comprise HMP Wandsworth pose physical challenges for registered nurses and health care assistants as the prison was not built with modern healthcare services in mind.

It is essential that all registered nurses and healthcare assistants fully understand the physical requirements of working at HMP Wandsworth, and are able to manage these challenges before accepting a post. This includes responding to unexpected emergencies and coping with events in what can sometimes be an unpredictable environment.

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide you with information about the physical demands of working at HMP Wandsworth

SLAM employed Mental Health Nurses

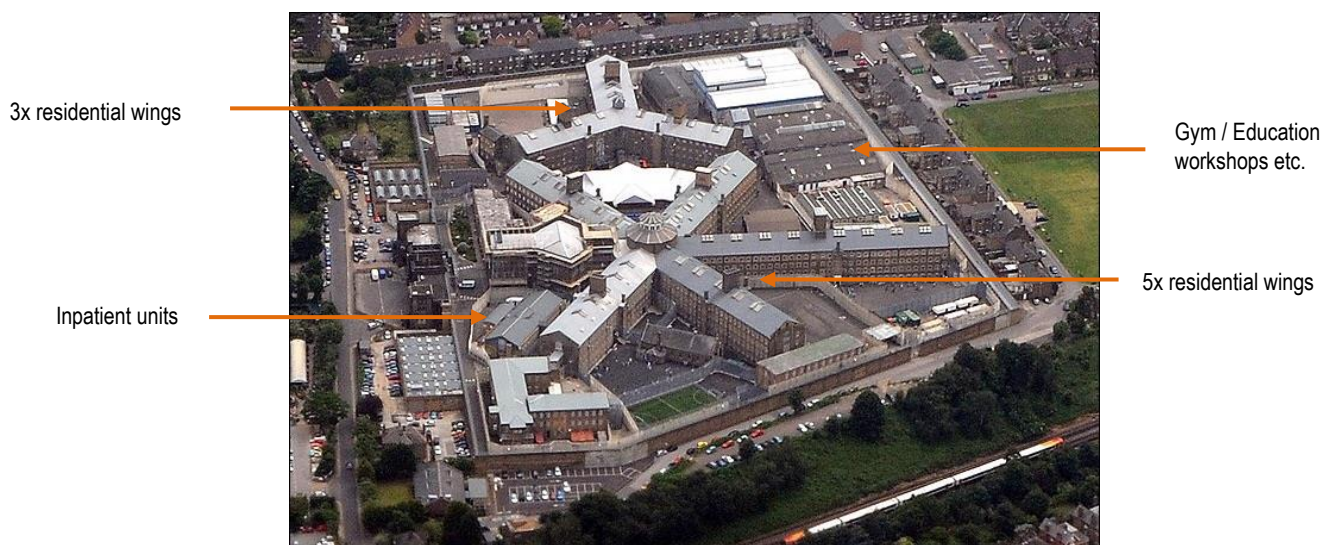
The emergency response (Hotel 3) at HMP Wandsworth is nurse led. There are two registered nurses (Hotel 3 and Hotel 2) from the primary care and substance misuse nursing teams assigned to emergency response; 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SLAM employed Registered Nurses who work in the Primary Care Mental Health Team, the Mental Health In-reach Team or the Addison inpatient Unit are **not** assigned the Emergency Nurse Response role.

However, should there be multiple simultaneous incidents (rare) there may be an occasion where a Registered Nurse or Healthcare Assistant is asked to collect an emergency bag and oxygen, and/or assist colleagues in providing emergency care.

Key considerations about the physical environment at HMP Wandsworth

- The layout of HMP Wandsworth means that healthcare services (clinic rooms, medication hatches etc.) are scattered throughout the prison site.
- There are no lifts and each residential wing has four floors.
- Staff may have to cover long distances in a single day as part of their role.
- Most of the time a prison is a safe place to work, but occasionally incidents happened where a staff member may be instructed to move briskly away from a specific area. They must be able to do so without compromising the safety of others (e.g. walking down narrow stairs too slowly thus preventing other staff who are following behind from reaching a place of safety).
- The following photo provides an overview of the kind of distances that may be involved.

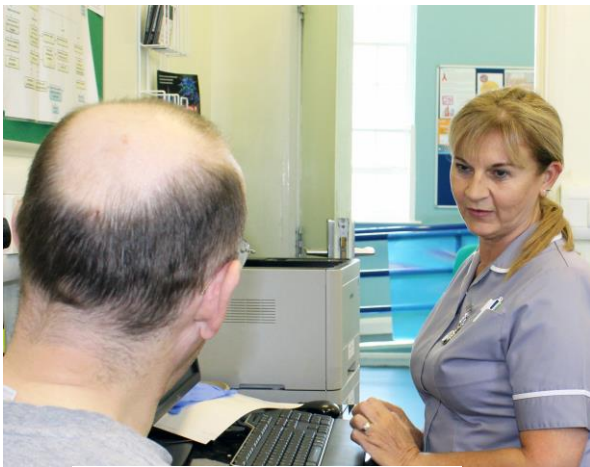


- Staff may have to attend to prisoners in an emergency situation in a number of potential locations which are located in buildings separate from the main residential wings. For example; education, workshop, gym buildings, football field etc.
- There are 11 emergency 'grab bags' and oxygen cylinders spread across the prison site.
- Medical emergencies often occur in a prisoner's cell. Floor space in the cells is very limited and requires a good degree of agility if attending an emergency situation. Most cells have static furniture making the process even more difficult. Staff must be able to get up and down from the floor unaided to provide CPR / other medical interventions if required.



Minimum physical requirements for all Registered Nurses and Health Care Assistants

1. Each staff member must be able to walk up and down stairs without assistance and be able to walk long distances during a shift as required.
2. Each staff member must be able to get up and down from the floor without assistance from others in order to be able to provide medical interventions (e.g. CPR)
3. Each staff member must be able to carry the emergency bag and oxygen cylinder up and down stairs and across the site as required



Secondary Screening Nurse Clinic



Pharmacy Technician outside a wing medication hatch



The on-site dispensing pharmacy has close links to the St George's Hospital Pharmacy

Medications are administered on the wings by Pharmacy Technicians and Nurses. Medications are transported to the medication hatch in portable containers as above.

Managing stairs

All Registered Nurse and Health Care Assistants must be able to walk up and down stairs without assistance and be able to walk long distances during their shift

Offender Healthcare Services are spread throughout the large site of HMP Wandsworth. There are no lifts and healthcare staff may be required to navigate a large number of stairs and cover long distances in a single shift.



Carrying the emergency 'grab-bag'

All Registered Nurse and Health Care Assistants must be able to take the emergency 'grab-bag' to the site of a medical emergency as required.

During each shift there is a Registered Nurse (Emergency Response Nurse) who is designated to 'hold' the emergency response radio and respond to any emergencies on the prison site.

The radio call sign for the emergency nurse responder is 'Hotel 3'

When an emergency is called through on the radio (the emergency radio is worn on the belt of the designated emergency response nurse), the emergency response nurse must collect the emergency bag and oxygen cylinder and take it to the site of the emergency.

The Hotel 3 nurse may already be at the scene and may request another RN or Healthcare Assistant (HCA) to collect the emergency 'grab-bag' and oxygen.

Alternatively if there are multiple simultaneous incidents (a rare occurrence), **other healthcare staff may need to collect the emergency equipment and carry to the site of the emergency and/or assist in a medical emergency.**

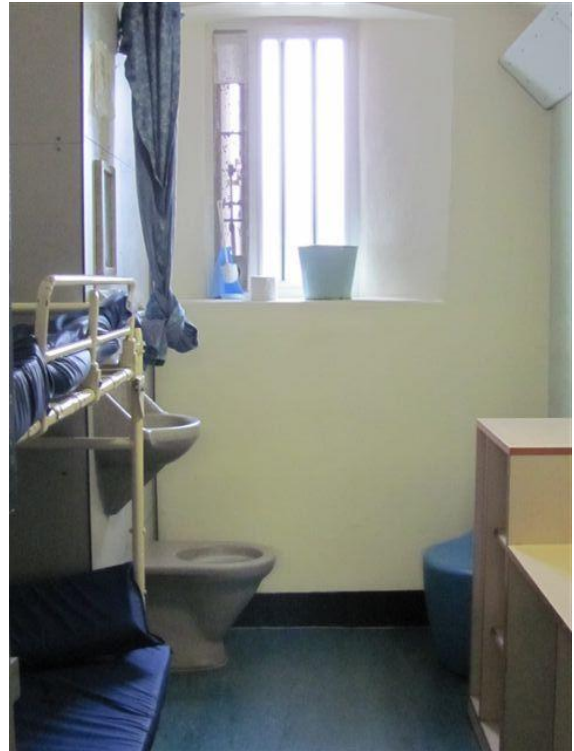


Attending a medical emergency 'in-cell'

All Registered Nurses and Health Care Assistants must be able to get up and down from the floor without the assistance of another person.

There are no hospital beds in HMP Wandsworth, except on the Jones Unit (the six bedded medical unit). First aid and CPR is often provided when the patient is on the floor

Cells are small, and furniture is often fixed to the floor / wall, therefore a reasonable degree of agility is required on the part of the staff member when attending to an in-cell emergency, and staff must be able to get up and down from the floor without the assistance of others in order to provide effective CPR.



Emergency Nurse Response role (Hotel 3)

The emergency response (Hotel 3) at HMP Wandsworth is nurse led. There is a Registered Nurse trained to Intermediate Life Support level assigned to Hotel 3; 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Hotel 2 is the call sign for the back-up emergency nurse response.

The Emergency Response Nurse (Hotel 3) carries a radio and a small red 'bum-bag' (which contains some basic medical equipment) throughout their shift. Hotel 3 responds to calls from radio control.

Calls may be urgent (e.g. asthma attack, self-harm, seizure) or life threatening (e.g. respiratory or a cardiac arrest). If the radio call is for a life threatening emergency, Hotel 3 must go to the nearest emergency cupboard (there are 11 spread throughout the prison) and collect the emergency grab bag and oxygen and attend the site of the emergency. In the event of a life threatening code radio control also put out a call for the London Ambulance service to attend.

On the rare occasion when there are simultaneous incidents, a radio call out may be made to other RN's or HCA's to attend an emergency / pick up an emergency bag.

Registered Nurses in the primary care and substance misuse nursing teams receive a comprehensive package of training and induction for the role of Hotel 3 / 2



Hotel 3 and Hotel 2 on the way to a medical emergency



A checklist for Registered Nurses and Healthcare Assistants who are applying to work in the Offender Healthcare Service at HMP Wandsworth

Name	
Date	
Title of position applied for	
Please circle	PERMANENT FIXED TERM CONTRACT BANK

Please tick the relevant boxes

I confirm that I have read the document ‘The physical demands of working at HMP Wandsworth’

I confirm that I can manage stairs unaided and I understand that I may be required to walk long distances in a single shift

I confirm that I can get up and down from the floor unaided in order to be able to provide medical interventions such as CPR

I confirm that I am able to carry the emergency bag and oxygen cylinder when directed to do so in an emergency.

Signature	
Date	

