

## **DETENTION SERVICES ORDER 02/2007**

### **Use of handcuffs on medical escorts**

#### **Introduction**

This Order clarifies the use of handcuffs on adult detainees subject to medical escorts. Handcuffs cannot be used on children (ie under 18 years of age).

This Order should be read in conjunction with DSO 1/2002.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Order is to ensure that all staff are aware of the requirement to use risk assessments that take account of medical advice both prior to and during escorts of a medical nature.

#### **Procedures**

Risk assessments will be completed and recorded in advance on all detainees subject to medical escort. Such risk assessments will take proper account of clinical advice/concerns and the medical condition of the detainee. A balanced judgement will be made in deciding whether the use of handcuffs is necessary.

Where handcuffs have been used during a medical escort the normal presumption is that they should be removed during any medical consultation or treatment, unless the original risk assessment dictates otherwise. If a medical doctor or other person with direct responsibility for treating the detainee in the hospital requests the removal of handcuffs, either during any medical consultation/treatment or for other reasons, this request must be complied with.

Any queries on this DSO should be addressed to [name and telephone number redacted]

[Name redacted]  
Head of OSU  
Detention Services  
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