



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

# Consultation

## Keeping people safe in high security psychiatric services



What do you think?



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# New rules about keeping people safe



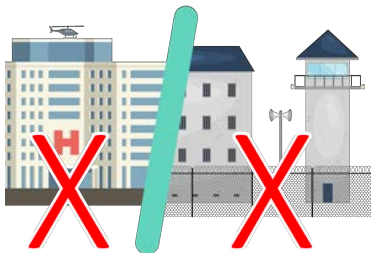
The Government's **Department of Health and Social Care** is thinking of making some changes to the rules about keeping people safe in **high security psychiatric hospitals**.



The **Department of Health and Social Care** is the Government department for all health and social care services in England.



**High security psychiatric hospitals** are for people with serious mental health problems who might harm people or escape.



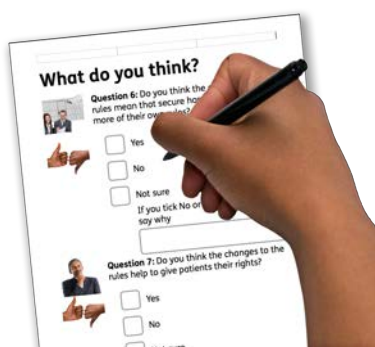
It would not be safe for them to be in other mental health services or prison.



This document explains the changes to the rules.



The department wants to know what you think.



Please read through this document and then tell us your views by answering the questions in the separate questionnaire.



Please let us have your answers by Thursday 23rd August 2018.

# High security psychiatric hospitals



There are 3 high security psychiatric hospitals in England: Ashworth, Broadmoor and Rampton.



Most patients have been in trouble with the law.



Most have been ordered to stay in a secure hospital by the courts.



The rules for looking after patients in all three hospitals have been set by the Department of Health and Social Care.

# Why are we changing the rules?

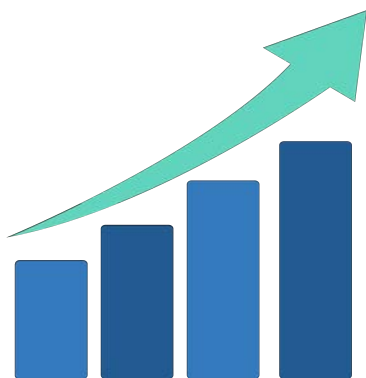


These are the changes that we want to make to the rules about keeping patients, staff and the public safe.



## Making rules

We want high security hospitals to be able to make more of their own rules about how to keep people safe.



We want high security hospitals to improve and protect the rights of patients to aid treatment and recovery.

# Which rules are we changing?



## Searching patients

We want to change the rules so that staff must have a good reason for searching a patient.



Staff search patients by either:

- Running their hands over their body outside their clothes
- Removing the patient's clothing



Staff are able to do this even if the patient doesn't want them to.

## Searching lockers

We want staff to be allowed to search patients' rooms and lockers if they have some information which says there is something that might be dangerous.





## Searching wards

We want wards to be searched once a week.



We want areas to be searched at least once every 3 months.



A **ward** is where patients stay.



## Searching members of staff

Members of staff may be searched before they go into a **secure area**. Their things may be **x-rayed**.



A **secure area** is part of the hospital where there are extra rules and checks to make sure everyone and the hospital is safe.



**X-ray** is a way of taking a picture of what is inside something.





## Smoking

Tobacco is not allowed in the hospital. There is no smoking allowed in any part of the hospital.



## Giving food to patients

We want members of staff to be able to give food to patients in a secure area if they have been given permission.



This is new. In the past only kitchen staff and porters could give food to patients in a secure area.



## Checks of vehicles

We want each hospital to have their own rules for checking vehicles before they go into, or leave a secure area.



A **vehicle** is a car, van or minibus



## Keeping medicines safe

We are changing the rules for keeping medicines safe so that it applies to all the area around the ward, not just to the ward itself.



## Keeping a record of searches

We are changing the rules about keeping records of searches so that the record can be kept on a computer as well as on paper.



## Patients' possessions

We want hospitals to be able to make their own rules about:

- Looking after patients' possessions



- When patients can get their possessions



- When they are not allowed to get their possessions



## Computer equipment and games

Each hospital must have a rule about how patients can use a computer or computer games equipment.



We want to change the rules so that hospitals can have more choice about when patients can use this equipment.



We want hospitals to be able to help patients to understand more about new technology if they think this is safe.



## Post

We want hospitals to make rules about post between patients and staff and between patients and other patients.



The rules should say who can open and look at the post, and when this can be done.



## Mobile telephones

Patients are not allowed mobile phones anywhere in the hospital.



Staff may be allowed a mobile phone in a secure area if the security director gives permission.



## Security risk assessments

A security risk assessment is when a hospital thinks about how to keep a patient safe.



Each hospital must have rules for thinking about how to keep each patient safe.

The rules must say:

- When an assessment must be made
- Who should make the assessment
- What the assessment should include





## Going into the grounds of the hospital

We want to change the rules so that every patient has the chance go out into the grounds.



But the **Grounds Access Committee** must:

- Look at the patients **risk assessment**
- Give permission



A **Grounds Access Committee** is a group of staff who make rules about using the grounds.



A **risk assessment** explains about the dangers of a patient going into the grounds.



We also want to change the rules so that patients can appeal to the Grounds Access Committee if they don't agree with the assessment.



## Leave of absence

Leave of absence is when a patient is allowed out of the hospital for a period of time for a special reason.



Leave of absence can only be given if:

- The doctor writes a risk assessment



- The medical team writes a plan of how people will stay safe



- The security director agrees



## Staff training

The rules say that hospitals should have staff training in safety and security.



The rules says who should get the training and what it should cover.

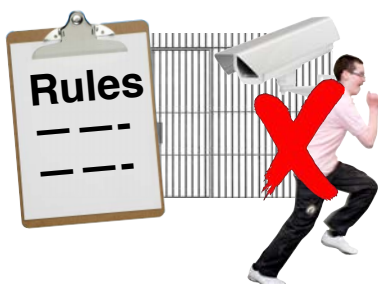


We want to change this so that hospitals can choose who should have the training and how the training is run.

## The fence



Each hospital has a large fence around the outside.



The new rules say that each hospital must have proper arrangements for making sure that patients don't escape.

# Are we being fair to everyone?



We want to make sure that:

- These new rules are fair to everyone



- That people are not treated differently because of who they are



Please will you tell us if you think that any of these rules are treating people unfairly because:

- Of their age



- They are disabled



- They have changed their gender





- They are married or in a civil partnership



- They are pregnant or looking after a new baby



- Of their race



- Of their religion or belief



- Of their sex



- They are gay or straight

# What do you think?



Please now tell us what you think by answering the questions in the easy read questionnaire.

Please let us have your answers by Thursday 23 August 2018.

## For more information



If you need more information please contact us by:

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