

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

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21 August 2025

[oxleas.nhs.uk](https://oxleas.nhs.uk)

Ms. Rachael C. Griffin  
Coroner for the County of Dorset  
Civic Centre  
Bourne Avenue  
Bournemouth  
BH2 6DY

Dear Ms. Griffin,

## **REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

Please find our response to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths following the inquest touching the death of Mr. Sheldon Lawrence Jeans, who died on 13 November 2022 at HMP Guys Marsh. The matters of concern are outlined and responded to.

The matters of concern are as follows:

- (1) There is a lack of national policy, and local guidance at HMP Guys Marsh, to inform staff working in prisons of the dangers of illicitly brewed alcohol, also known as hooch. There is also a lack of policy and guidance to assist those working within the prisoner estate with the management and governance of the access to, and use of, illicitly brewed alcohol. Illicitly brewed alcohol is a common substance across the prisoner estate.
- (2) Prisoners can have access to certain medication to hold in their possession which could be accessed by other prisoners and there is a lack of national policy, and local policy at HMP Guys Marsh, from a healthcare and prison perspective, around the governance of medication held in possession in the prison estate.

There are many ways in which alcohol can be illicitly brewed in the prison setting. It is known that certain prescribed medications could be used to assist in the fermenting process and, where possible, we have already removed these from the prescribing formulary or

ensure that they are only provided on a supervised (not-in-possession) basis and are consumed at the medication hatch to minimise the risk of diversion. There is no national NHS policy to assist those working within the prisoner estate with the management and governance of the access to, and use of, illicitly brewed alcohol. Change, Grow, Live (CGL) our psychosocial substance misuse provider, deliver the following in relation to the use of alcohol with our prison population:

- Alcohol workshops and associated workbooks
- Harm reduction sessions, information and resources – including hooch specific information.
- Specific training for staff – recently delivered at HMP Guys Marsh
- Welfare checks/brief interventions for anyone suspected to have been under the influence of hooch/other alcohol
- Assessments, reviews and personalised recovery planning – including use of motivational interviewing techniques
- Access to recovery programmes and mutual aid

We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding the governance and safety of in-possession medication at HMP Guys Marsh and more broadly across the prison estate. The wellbeing of individuals in custody remains our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring that medication management practices are both safe and supportive of rehabilitation.

The practice of allowing prisoners to hold certain medications in-possession is designed to promote personal responsibility and mirror community standards. This approach supports individuals in preparing for release and reintegration with the community and aligns with the principle of equivalence of care. It is also in line with a variety of nationally applicable guidance. <https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/optimising-medicines-in-secure-environments>.

Before any medication is issued in-possession, a comprehensive risk assessment is undertaken to evaluate both the medication(s) and the individual's suitability. This risk assessment can be updated / changed at any time but particularly in the event of a change of an individual's circumstances.

As people arrive in prison, they are required to sign a Compact that clearly outlines their responsibilities regarding the safe storage, use, and return of prescribed medication. While patients are requested to return any unused or discontinued medication to healthcare, we recognise that mandating this process is operationally challenging and relies heavily on individual compliance and would require assistance of the Prison Service.

It should be highlighted that in addition to prescribed medication, prisoners are entitled to purchase a limited number of low-risk medications through the prison canteen. However, healthcare remains the preferred route for people to access medication, as it is more cost-effective and provides clinical oversight.

Healthcare teams conduct intelligence-led and random in-possession checks to monitor compliance and safety. Nonetheless, the overall security of the prison environment,

including the safeguarding of medication, is the responsibility of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). We work closely with HMPPS to ensure that security protocols are upheld and adapted as needed. This also includes the supervision of not-in-possession medication provided by Prison staff at the medication hatches.

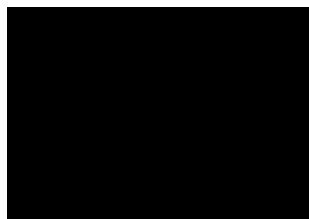
To further support safe medication practices, we will be developing and distributing new health promotion materials to the prison population at HMP Guys Marsh, but also within the wider Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust prison portfolio. These materials will focus on:

- **Safe storage of prescribed medication**, including the use of personal lockable safes – responsibility of HMPPS.
- **Proper disposal of unused or discontinued medication.**

There is no national policy around the governance of medication held in possession in the prison estate. Attached is our recently published local In-possession Medication Compliance procedure which outlines bi-monthly in-cell compliance checks for patients on in-possession medication. This process, which is led by pharmacy staff with HMPPS support, checks to ensure medication adherence, prevent diversion, and upholds the safety of medication. Any discrepancies would trigger a review, disciplinary action, or changes to in-possession status. Documentation is maintained via SystmOne. If required, formal notification letters are sent to the patients. The procedure aligns with NICE and Royal Pharmaceutical Society guidelines. Oversight is shared between pharmacy, wider healthcare and HMPPS teams and ensures that there are robust assurance mechanisms in place.

Our shared goal is to ensure that all individuals in custody are supported in managing their health safely and responsibly.

Yours sincerely



**Chief Executive Officer**

Cc  Service Director Forensic & Offender Healthcare Services