

Royal College  
of Nursing

# Sexual and Reproductive Health Competency Framework for Women Cared for in Prison

CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE



[corporate.communications@rcn.org.uk](mailto:corporate.communications@rcn.org.uk)

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**RCN Legal Disclaimer**

**Notes**



# Introduction



## How is prison health care delivered?

[england.nhs.uk/commissioning/health-just](https://england.nhs.uk/commissioning/health-just)

[phw.nhs.wales/topics/prison-health-in-wales](https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/prison-health-in-wales)

[setrust.hscni.net/service/healthcare-in-prison](https://setrust.hscni.net/service/healthcare-in-prison)





## Older women in prison

# Pregnancy and childbirth, midwives and health visitors

*Position statement on maternity care for women in prison in England and Wales*  
*Birth Companions Birth Charter*  
*Maternity Standards*

RCOG

# Babies in prison

# Sexual and reproductive health competencies for supporting women in prison

**Table 1: Who the framework is for and how it can be used**

Who is the framework for?	What is the framework for?
Registered nurses, nursing support workers (including nursing associates), midwives	Standards of care Career pathway
Non-health care custodial staff	Information and developing understanding of health care professional roles
Managers including nurse leaders	Workforce planning; professional performance review; training needs analysis; continued professional development
Employers	Workforce planning; recruitment; standard job descriptions
Commissioners	Background for monitoring fitness for purpose against key performance indicators (KPIs)
NMC and regulatory/ inspection bodies for Prison and Probation Ombudsman	Benchmark standards for care for quality assurance measure Benchmark for measuring standards of care in fitness to practice hearings

## How can the competencies be used?

[rcnlearn.rcn.org.uk/Search/Sexual-health-education-directory](http://rcnlearn.rcn.org.uk/Search/Sexual-health-education-directory)

[nmc.org.uk/revalidation](http://nmc.org.uk/revalidation)

**Table 2: Sexual and reproductive health competencies for supporting women in prison**

Competency Details	Clinical (C) Education (E) Leadership (L) Research (R)	Health care support practitioners (HCP)	Nursing associates (ENGLAND ONLY)	RN & M newly qualified/new to prison care.	RN & M enhanced/specialist practice	Existing competence frameworks/information to support best practice
<b>History-taking/risk assessment/reception screening</b>						
Completion of initial reception screen, which includes history of pregnancy within the last 12 months, identifying any possibility of pregnancy etc.	C	*				<a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng57/chapter/Recommendations">nice.org.uk/guidance/ng57/chapter/Recommendations</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-policy-framework">gov.uk/government/publications/womens-policy-framework</a> * HCP to be deemed competent and practice under the supervision of a registered nurse
Completion of secondary assessment to identify any ongoing fertility treatment, more detailed obstetric history and sexual health history	C	*				<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-policy-framework">gov.uk/government/publications/womens-policy-framework</a> * HCP to be deemed competent and practice under the supervision of a registered nurse
Completion of clinical observations including NEWS2 (National Early Warning Score2), COWS (Clinical Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol scale)	C					
Pregnancy testing	C					





## Menstrual health

Comfortably initiate a conversation about menstrual wellbeing and provide sanitary products and issue a menstrual diary if required	C					<a href="https://rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/promoting-menstrual-wellbeing">rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/promoting-menstrual-wellbeing</a>

Sexual health						
1 Communication						
Practitioner can recognise an appropriate location to discuss any sexual health concerns, for example, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), in a confidential setting	C					BASHH (2023) Standards for the Management of Sexual Health in UK Prisons <a href="https://bashh.org/professionals/special_interest_groups/28/prison_sig/public">bashh.org/professionals/special_interest_groups/28/prison_sig/public</a>
Practitioner can outline limitations of confidentiality discussed with patient, providing reassurance about confidential nature of the conversation where appropriate	C					BASHH guidelines for those working in sex industry <a href="https://bashh.org/news/1408/invitation_to_respond_to_a_consultation_on_clinical_standards_for_the_sexual_health_management_of_people_involved_in_sex_work">bashh.org/news/1408/invitation_to_respond_to_a_consultation_on_clinical_standards_for_the_sexual_health_management_of_people_involved_in_sex_work</a>
Practitioner can raise the subject of sexual health/STIs in an appropriate and sensitive manner	C					Making Every Contact Count <a href="https://e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/making-every-contact-count">e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/making-every-contact-count</a>
Practitioner can discuss sexual risk and ensure that relevant interventions are made when starting time in prison, in particular if they are time-dependent for example, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV after sexual exposure/emergency contraception	C	-	-			Specialist Pharmacy Service <a href="https://sps.hms.uk/?cat%5B0%5D=2995&amp;cat%5B1%5D=3639&amp;s=eLfh">sps.hms.uk/?cat%5B0%5D=2995&amp;cat%5B1%5D=3639&amp;s=eLfh</a>
Confidently provide education on sexual health topics, including safer sex practices and STIs, in preparation for release from prison, as a part of the release plan	C	an5 (r).3 (e)-8.5 (p)-8.9 (a)-2.%	as a p283.085.576.863.Tm044.r.8591.949.0.Td0039			Sexual health education directory <a href="https://rcn.org.uk/Log-In?returnUrl=https%3a%2f%2frcn.org.uk%2fclinical-topics%2fPublic-health%2fSexual-health%2fSexual-health-education-directory">rcn.org.uk/Log-In?returnUrl=https%3a%2f%2frcn.org.uk%2fclinical-topics%2fPublic-health%2fSexual-health%2fSexual-health-education-directory</a>
						Integrated Sexual Health Service Specification 2023 <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1143246/Integrated-sexual-health-service-specification-2023.pdf">assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1143246/Integrated-sexual-health-service-specification-2023.pdf</a>



**3 Provision of physical care to support general health and wellbeing, as well as that which is specific to sexual health:**

<p>An effective triage process should be in place, so those with clinically urgent needs, those who can be managed by non-specialists within the prison health care setting and those who require specialist care (Level 3) can be assessed and referred to most appropriate care setting</p>	<p>C and L</p>	<p>-</p>				<p><a href="http://england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-review-of-health-and-social-care-in-womens-prisons">england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-review-of-health-and-social-care-in-womens-prisons</a></p>
<p>Able to offer routine screen for chlamydia as part of the chlamydia</p>						















## References and further reading

*Tackling Double Disadvantage* [agendaalliance.org/our-work/projects-and-campaigns/tackling-double-disadvantage](https://agendaalliance.org/our-work/projects-and-campaigns/tackling-double-disadvantage)

*The Young Women's Justice Project* [agendaalliance.org/news/new-report-reveals-criminal-justice-system-harming-vulnerable-girls-and-young-women](https://agendaalliance.org/news/new-report-reveals-criminal-justice-system-harming-vulnerable-girls-and-young-women)

*Birth Charter for women in prisons in England and Wales*  
[hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/birth-companions/atg/n7648.1615.613g14s63](https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/birth-companions/atg/n7648.1615.613g14s63)

Concordat on women in or at risk of contact with the Criminal Justice System.  
[gov.uk/government/publications/concordat-on-women-in-or-at-risk-of-contact-with-the-criminal-justice-system](https://gov.uk/government/publications/concordat-on-women-in-or-at-risk-of-contact-with-the-criminal-justice-system)

Prison life [gov.uk/life-in-prison](https://gov.uk/life-in-prison)

Pregnancy, MBUs and maternal separation in women's prisons Policy Framework.  
[gov.uk/government/publications/pregnancy-mbus-and-maternal-separation-in-womens-prisons-policy-framework](https://gov.uk/government/publications/pregnancy-mbus-and-maternal-separation-in-womens-prisons-policy-framework)

Care and Management of Pregnant Women in Detention.  
[assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/564431/DSO\\_05\\_2016\\_-\\_Pregnant\\_Women\\_In\\_Detention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/564431/DSO_05_2016_-_Pregnant_Women_In_Detention.pdf)

Women's Prison Expectations.  
[justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/our-expectations/womens-prison-expectations](https://justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/our-expectations/womens-prison-expectations)

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Independent investigation into the death of Baby Aishwariya Bronze field on 27 September 2019  
[ppo.gov.uk/news/ppo-ombudsman-sue-mcallister-publishes-independent-investigation-into-the-tragic-death-of-a-baby-at--bronnh7eld P64 Td!25 \(5.3 \(3\).8 \(X\).2 \(ess\).5 \(2.1 \(3\)16.8 \(22.7 \(2\)3.1 \(](https://ppo.gov.uk/news/ppo-ombudsman-sue-mcallister-publishes-independent-investigation-into-the-tragic-death-of-a-baby-at--bronnh7eld P64 Td!25 (5.3 (3).8 (X).2 (ess).5 (2.1 (3)16.8 (22.7 (2)3.1 ()

*Standards of proficiency for midwives*

[nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-midwives/standards-of-proficiency-for-midwives](https://nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-midwives/standards-of-proficiency-for-midwives)

*My Future, My Midwife programme*

[nmc.org.uk/about-us/our-role/who-we-regulate/midwifery/education](https://nmc.org.uk/about-us/our-role/who-we-regulate/midwifery/education)

nmc.

*Motherhood In The Justice System*

[nmc.org.uk/justice-podcast-motherhood-in-the-justice-system](https://nmc.org.uk/justice-podcast-motherhood-in-the-justice-system)

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## RCN quality assurance

Publication

Description

The Nine Quality Standards

Evaluation

