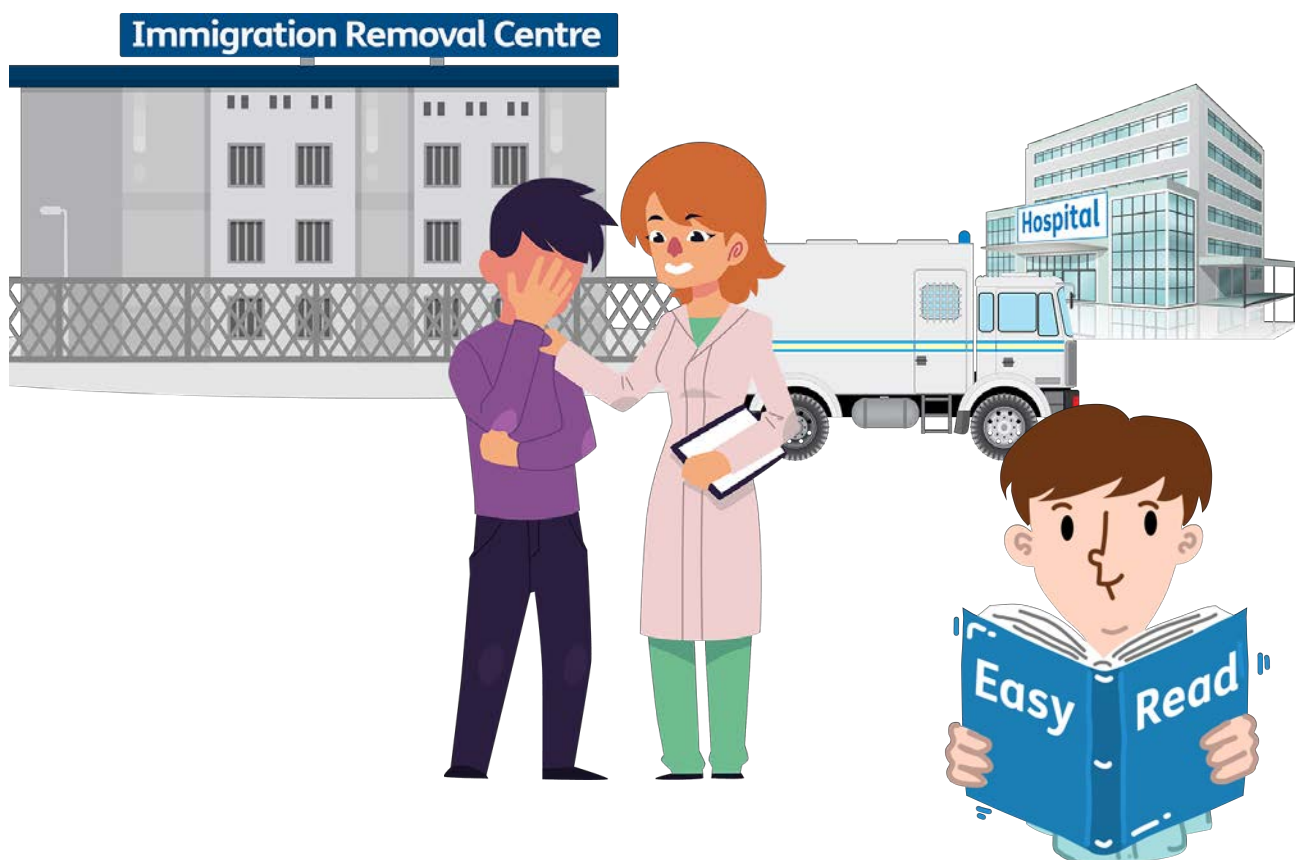


Moving people in immigration removal centres to and from mental health hospitals Guidance



NHS England and NHS Improvement



Contents

Page



Introduction

3



Paying for health services

5



Referral and assessment

7



Going to hospital

9



Going back to the immigration removal centre

11



Sharing information

14

Introduction



Some people can have mental health problems while they are in an **immigration removal centre**.



An **immigration removal centre** is where people are kept while the law decides if they can stay in the country or not.



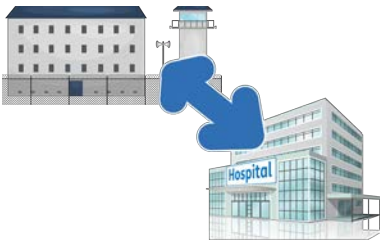
Some will have to go to a mental health hospital for treatment.



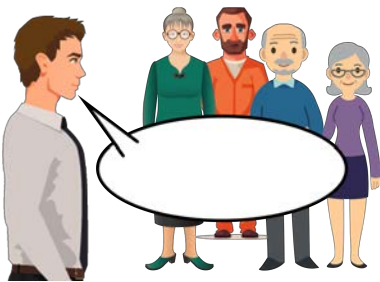
This has to be agreed by the **Ministry of Justice**.



The **Ministry of Justice** is a government department in charge of courts, prisons, criminal law and people's legal rights.



This **guidance** explains how people in an immigration removal centre are moved to and from a mental health hospital.



The person, their family and any carers must be told all about the move to and from hospital.



Guidance is advice and information.



This **guidance** is written by the NHS to tell staff in the different services what they have to do.

Paying for health services



Normally local doctors (GPs) arrange treatment for their patients.



All GPs belong to a clinical commissioning group (CCG).



The CCG pays for the treatment arranged by GPs in their area.



Sometimes it is difficult to work out which CCG should pay for treatment for a patient in an immigration removal centre.

But these patients will get treatment before working out which CCG will pay.



People who are registered with a GP

If the person is registered with a GP, then that GP's CCG will pay for the treatment in a mental health hospital.



People who are not registered with a GP

For people who are not registered with a GP, the CCG that covers the area where they usually live will pay.

Referral and assessment



Referral

Healthcare staff at the immigration removal centre will see the person first.



They have to decide if the person's mental health has got so bad that:

- They may harm themselves or other people
- It is affecting their physical health
- The immigration removal centre needs to protect them



The healthcare staff may decide that the patient should be assessed by a psychiatrist.

This is called a **referral**.



The person should not have to wait more than 14 days before seeing the psychiatrist.



The assessment

The psychiatrist will see the person and decide what is the best treatment. This is called an **assessment**.



They may decide that the person should go to a mental health hospital.



People should not have to wait more than 28 days before they are referred to a mental health hospital and then moved to a mental health hospital.



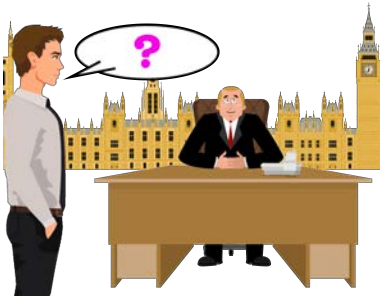
People should not have to wait more than 28 days between first seeing the immigration removal centre healthcare staff and being moved to a mental health hospital.

Going to hospital



When they have decided that the person needs to go to a mental health hospital, the healthcare staff should:

- Keep telling the patient what is happening
- Ask NHS England and NHS Improvement, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office about which mental health hospital would be best



The Ministry of Justice has to decide whether to allow the person to go to the mental health hospital.

What next?



If the Ministry of Justice decides the prisoner can go to a mental health hospital, prison healthcare staff contact the mental health hospital and give them information about the prisoner.



The hospital has to decide the date that the move can take place.



The staff at the immigration removal centre have to make the arrangements for the transport and any escort needed.



Dealing with problems

If doctors can't agree whether the person needs to go to hospital, they can ask another doctor to come and assess them.

Going back to the immigration removal centre



The person will have to go back to the immigration removal centre when the hospital doctors decide either:

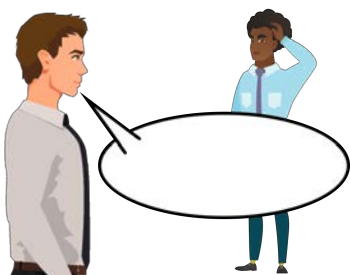
- They don't need hospital treatment any more



- There isn't any effective treatment at the hospital



The Home Office, Ministry of Justice, the mental health hospital and the immigration removal centre have to work together to arrange for the person to go back.



The person must be involved in the arrangements for going back.

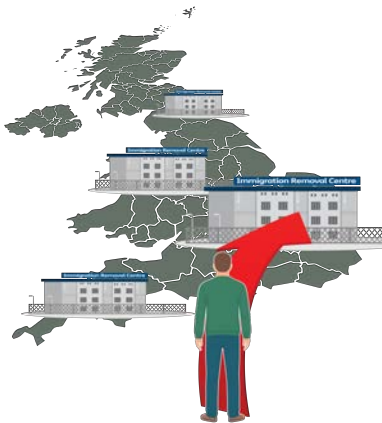


This should all be done within 14 days.

What happens



The hospital doctors contact the immigration removal centre healthcare staff.

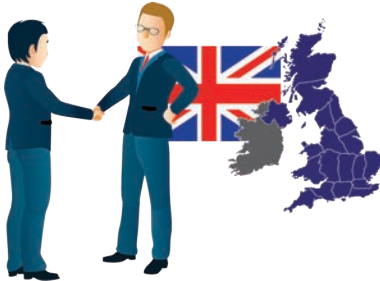


Prisoners will usually go back to the nearest immigration removal centre.

Changes to the person's situation



Sometimes the person will have a change of their situation while they are in hospital.



Sometimes there will be a decision that they can stay in the UK. In this case the hospital will have to make contact with their local mental health services.

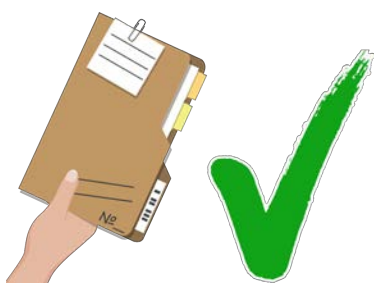


Sometimes there will be a decision that the person has to leave the country as soon as they are ready to leave hospital. In this case the hospital will have to contact the people who make sure that the person leaves the country.

Sharing information



Staff should follow the rules about sharing information between the immigration removal centre and the mental health hospital.



Staff are allowed to share information about the person with the hospital, including the reason that they are in an immigration removal centre.