

Protocol – NPS in staff and prisoners at HMP Addiewell – FINAL

Background

HMP Addiewell is experiencing high and rising numbers of incidents where prisoners and staff become unwell due to exposure to intoxicating substances: a total of 203 incidents this year with 55 in the month of August and over the weekend of 18.08.17 12 staff were attended at St John's A&E department. The substances implicated are not known but are likely to be Novel Psychoactive Substances such as synthetic cannabinoids. These events restrict the ability of healthcare staff to provide routine medical care and, particularly for those taking the drugs, poses a risk of serious sequelae including death.

Over 2013-15 the City of Edinburgh experienced a large rise in people injecting novel psychoactive substances (NPS) and from April 2013 to December 2015, 418 individuals were admitted to Lothian hospitals with a diagnosis relating to NPS use [2]. Those involved frequently demonstrated chaotic and unsafe injecting practice and were vulnerable to overdose, transmission of blood borne viruses (BBVs) and severe soft tissue infections. There has been a decline of use in the community following national legislative changes that restricted the availability of NPS.

However, since March 2017, the number of prisoners in HMP Addiewell believed to be using NPS has increased with 2-12 cases per day being reported as 'Under the Influence of Substance'. In March 2017 there were 6 reported incidents affecting staff and prisoners involving NPS use in HMP Addiewell. However, by May this had risen to 35, 41 in June, 60 in July and 55 so far in August with 203 in total this year.

HMP Addiewell has been having weekly meetings to discuss the issue since August 14th. A number of stories relating to NPS use in HMP Addiewell have been run in the local press.

Other prisons in the UK have experienced similar issues with NPS use. PHE has developed a range of guidance documents for use with staff but there is little published data on the effects that exposure to NPS can have on prison staff.

Aims

1. To investigate the clinical, exposure and toxicological characteristics of symptomatic staff and prisoners as soon as possible following exposure to NPS
2. To use this information to inform approaches to control and clinical management of cases

Methods

1. Site and population - HMP Addiewell staff and prisoners
2. Inclusion/exclusion criteria

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Staff – staff that have been exposed to NPS and present with symptoms sufficiently severe to result in attendance at St John's Hospital A&E Department

Prisoners – prisoners that have ingested NPS and present with symptoms sufficiently serious to required a 'code blue' designation

3. Data collection - clinical and exposure data

Staff –

- data on symptoms, signs and exposure is collected by the SODEXO Health and Safety Manager and sent by secure email to NHS Lothian Health Protection team (HPT)
- data recorded on TRAK will be extracted by HPT

Prisoners –

- data on symptoms, signs and exposure is collected by the prison health centre and sent by secure email to HPT
- data recorded on TRAK will be extracted by HPT

4. Specimen collection – toxicology

Serum or urine, or both, can be used for toxicology analysis. Results of NPS analysis can take 8-10 weeks.

Staff

- **SJH A+E department should be contacted prior to the staff member arrival to notify them of details of the case and remind them to take samples.**
- **The Health Protection Team should also be informed at the earliest opportunity that a staff member will attend A+E. This can be done by telephone in hours (0131 465 5420) or secure email out of hours. Person identifiable information should be sent to catriona.waugh@nhs.net.**
- A patient information leaflet designed by HPT, should be provided to the affected staff member in SJH A+E department to inform them of the test.
- 5ml of unclotted blood should be collected in SJH A&E in a separate EDTA (red) tube, and/or a urine specimen in a universal container.
- The specimen should be labelled using handwritten CHI number and patient details.
- A Scottish Prison Authority form should be completed by A+E staff with relevant clinical data.
- The sample should be sent to SJH Blood Science Laboratories and A+E staff should contact SJH laboratory to confirm it has been sent.
- From there direct transport to Scottish Police Authority, Forensic Science Laboratory, 11 Howden Hall Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TL, 01316 661212
Note: If a delay of >48 hours, the serum plasma should be frozen.
- Specimens will be analysed at SPA and results will be sent to HPT by secure email (catriona.waugh@nhs.net). A paper copy of results should also be sent to Health Protection Team, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG.

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- HPT to liaise with GP and Toxicology regarding ongoing clinical management required, if any. A negative result will be sent to the GP with an accompanying letter. A positive result will be discussed with toxicology specialists at RIE and HPT will discuss with the GP.
- Staff will be informed of their result by HPT. Staff will be informed by letter if result is negative, and will be contacted by telephone to discuss further if the result is positive.

Note: Samples will not be anonymised as consent for a drug screen will be obtained at the time of taking the sample.

Prisoners -

- The sample should be taken as soon as is safely possible following a code blue.
- 5ml of unclotted blood should be collected at the prison health centre in an EDTA tube, and/or a urine specimen in a universal container.
- The specimen should be labelled using the prison number and patient details.
- A Scottish Police Authority request form should be completed with relevant clinical data.
- From there, direct transport to Scottish Police Authority, Forensic Science Laboratory, 11 Howden Hall Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TL 01316 661212
Note: If a delay of >48 hrs, the serum plasma should be frozen.
- Specimens will be analysed at SPA and results will be sent to HPT by secure email (catriona.waugh@nhs.net). A paper copy of results should also be sent to Health Protection Team, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG. The results will then be communicated to Prison Health Centre services by HPT through secure NHS Lothian email.
- If result is positive, Prison Health Care services to carry out appropriate clinical actions if required.

5. Consent

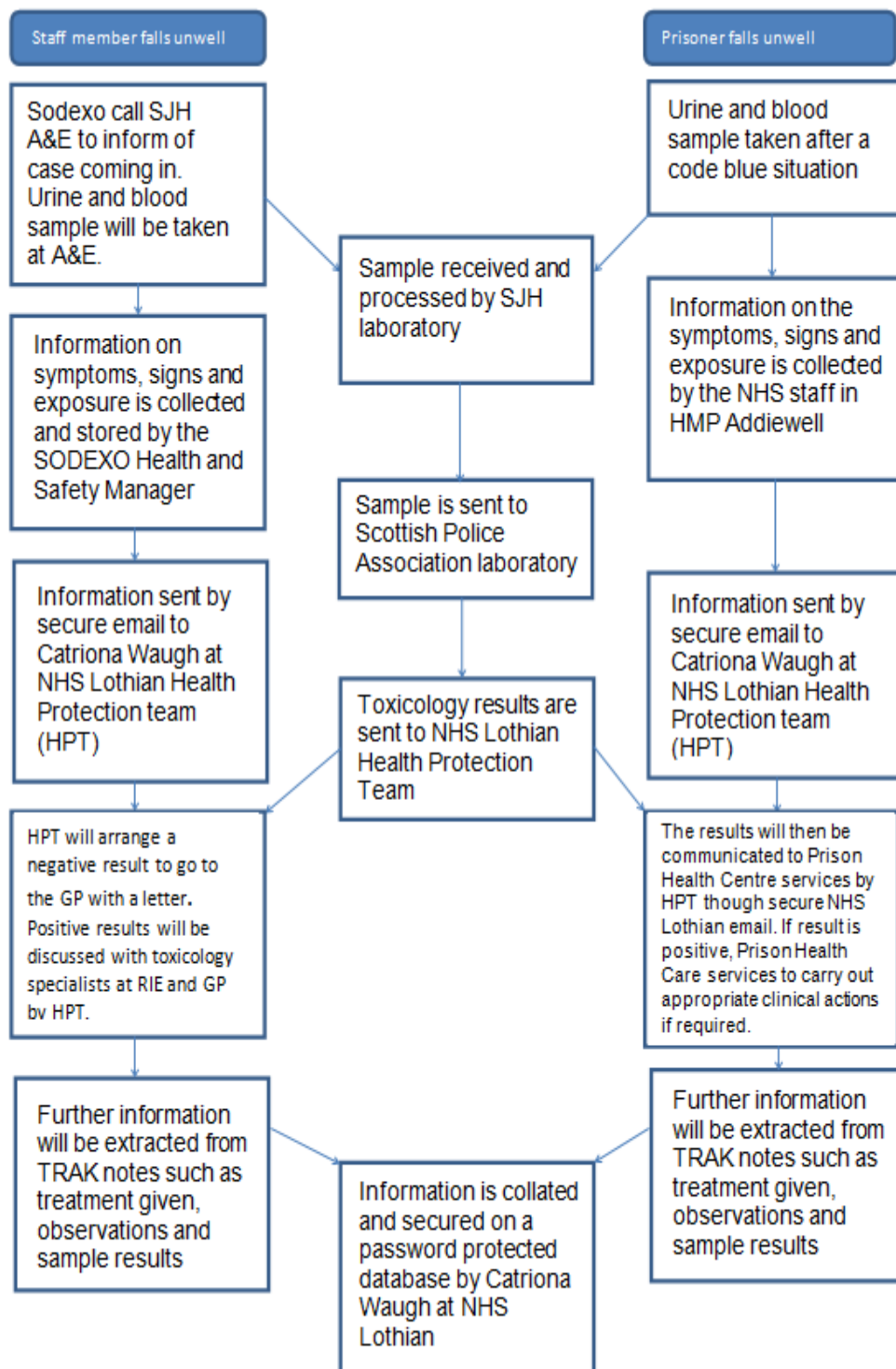
- Consent should be obtained on principles of informed consent that testing is part of diagnosis and case management. Therefore consent should be obtained as it would be for any blood or urine test. Staff and prisoners should be informed that a drug screen is being carried out and be given the option to decline the test if they wish.
- Consent for staff information collected by SODEXO Health and Safety will be sought at earliest opportunity following exposure by SODEXO staff. Consent for blood/urine samples from staff will be obtained by the attending clinician using a patient information sheet.
- Consent for prisoners will be sought at the time of taking by prison Health Centre staff.
- Consent should also be clear about who can access results. For staff, only the individual's GP and HPT will be able to see the result. For prisoners, only prison health care staff and HPT will have access to the result.
- TRAK data is available to HPT as part of an ongoing investigation.

6. Data management

A Caldicott application has been completed for this piece of work. This will ensure that there is a clear pathway for the transfer of identifiable information so that it remains secure. This pathway is necessary as information from three separate sources (SODEXO, prison health centre and St John's Hospital) will be used in the final analysis.

Note:

- Confidential information should only be sent by secure email transmission. Emails using @xxx.cjsm.net or @xxx.pnn.xxx.uk should only send confidential information to @nhs.net email. For this protocol: catriona.waugh@nhs.net can be used.
- Emails between nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk accounts are secure. Prison Health Centre staff with nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk accounts can send confidential information to other nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk and nhs.net accounts and can send information to the generic HPT email: health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk
- Emails that do not contain confidential information can be sent to health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk



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7. Analysis

Exploratory univariate analysis will be carried out into the association between symptoms and history of exposure to NPS, and a positive NPS screen. Analysis will include a comparison of NPS screen results for those with a history of direct ingestion, and those with passive exposure only.

As this is an explorative project, no sample size or power calculations are required.

8. Costs

The anticipated costs of the additional testing will be met by NHS Public Health Directorate. These costs will include direct costs such as courier of samples and cost of the test. Due to the small numbers of tests, indirect costs such as staff costs will not be reimbursed. The job code for this project (NPS Prison) is **SPH018** and the incident budget code **S40297**.

9. Review

Testing will be reviewed after 3 months by Public Health and the benefits of continuing the project will be considered at this stage.

10. Dissemination

Aggregate data without patient identifiers will be collated by Public Health and shared with SODEXO, the prison Health Centre and A+E clinical leads.

These groups will have opportunity to feedback to Public Health about the project and the results.

If there are questions please contact

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Bibliography

1. New Psychoactive substances (NPS) in prisons: A toolkit for prison staff (PHE, 2015):[http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/new-psychoactive-substances-in-prisons\[0\].pdf](http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/new-psychoactive-substances-in-prisons[0].pdf)
2. Thematic analysis of training for prison staff on new psychoactive substances: November 2015 to May 2016 (PHE, 2017):<http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/analysis-of-psychoactive-substance-training-in-prisons.pdf>
3. Psychoactive Substances: Operational Guidance for Prisons and Approved Premises (PHE, 2017)

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Flow chart for management of toxicology samples for prison staff exposed to NPS

SODEXO assess staff member and take clinical history. If staff requires A+E, SODEXO to contact A+E to inform them of case of potential exposure to NPS. SODEXO to email HPT to inform them of case.



A+E staff assess patient, give patient information leaflet to affected prison staff, take separate sample of EDTA tube and urine and complete SPA request form.



A+E staff contact SJH lab to inform them of samples taken. Send samples to SJH lab.
HPT should also contact SJH lab to confirm sample should be sent to SPA lab.



SJH lab record receipt of samples and store in appropriate place until send on to SPA lab by courier



SPA lab process samples and return results to NHS HPT.

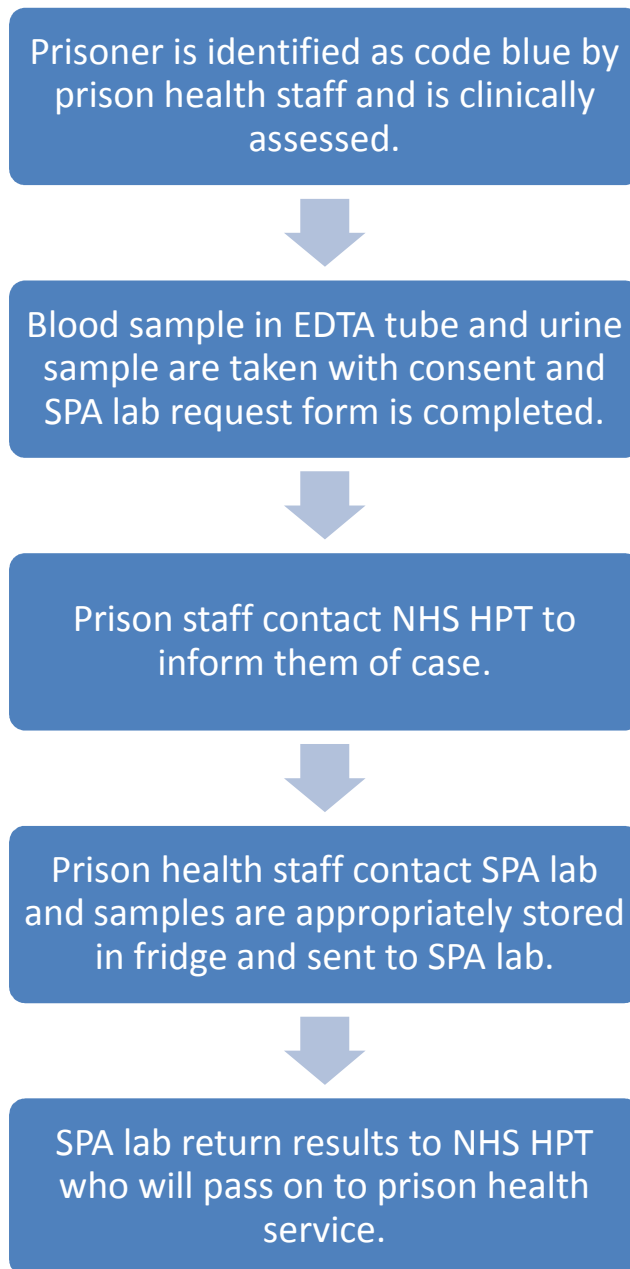


HPT to contact toxicology and GP if further clinical actions required. HPT to give results to GP and staff member.

HPT = Health Protection Team
NPS = Novel Psychoactive substances
SPA = Scottish Police Authority

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Flow chart for management of toxicology samples for prisoners exposed to NPS



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