

What is already known on this topic

There is a high prevalence of mental health problems in prisoners and insufficient provision for these problems

Recent guidelines recommend that mental health services for prisons should be equivalent to those provided by the NHS

The link between environmental stress and mental ill health has been well established in several settings but not in prisons

What this study adds

Focus group discussions provided a complex understanding of environmental factors affecting prisoner mental health

Long periods of isolation with little mental stimulation in a remand prison contributed to intense frustration and anger and may influence the use of drugs to relieve tedium

In prison staff high levels of stress related to the prison organisation and environment negatively affected the mental health of prisoners and developed into a circle of stress

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Endpiece

Essential freedom

Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur. (Without the freedom to criticise, there is no point in flattering eulogies.)

Pierre Beaumarchais,
French playwright (1732-99)

ing the prison environment, which in turn may lead to improvements in the mental health of prisoners.

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Competing interests: None declared.

Ethical approval: We sought advice from the National Prison Health Task Force and local health authority ethics committee regarding ethical approval, and were informed that official approval was not needed as the primary aim of this study was for service improvement. We took all measures to conduct the study in an ethical manner.

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Corrections and clarifications

This week in the BMJ: Paperless records are better than traditional system

This summary relating to the paper in the same issue by Julia Hippisley-Cox and colleagues (The electronic patient record in primary care—regression or progression? A cross sectional study, 28 June, pp 1439-43) contained several errors. Although we were correct to say that electronic medical records are "more complete and understandable than paper records," several supporting percentages were wrong. The study found that "almost 48% [not 90%, as we stated] of paperless records had at least one diagnosis, compared with 33% [not 32%] of paper based records." Drug dose reporting was "significantly better [not far better] in the electronic records than in the paper records (87% versus 66% [not 33%])." We have no excuse for these errors—the figures were all clearly stated in the paper itself.

Professor is replaced as lead scientist while GMC investigates his research

We made two factual errors in the final paragraph of the full (website only) version of this News Roundup article by Owen Dyer (28 June). Firstly, we wrongly stated that Professor Nicholas Wood refused to attend the inquiry in Singapore (that related to Professor Simon Shorvon, who had been dismissed as director of Singapore's National Neuroscience Institute). In fact, he had not been invited to attend, and he cooperated with the inquiries and dealt with the specific questions via email. Secondly, we also said that Professor Wood had worked in Singapore and had now started work at the Institute of Neurology in London, whereas he has been a full time employee of the institute since 1995.