

CHAPTER 32 - Medical Administration

Procedure when the mortality is unusually high

Rule 776

Whenever the mortality in a prison during any month exceeds one percent, the Medical Officer shall record in the monthly return, reasons as to cause of the increased death rate. If there is unusually high mortality, he shall make a special report to the Inspector-General for transmission to Government, if necessary.

Classification or prisoners according to health

Rule 777

The health of every prisoner shall be described as “good”, “bad”, or “indifferent”, Prisoner on admission to prison who are in immediate need of medical treatment shall be shown as in bad health, unless suffering from trivial and temporary ailments those who are not fit for hard labour, but do not need hospital treatment, shall be shown in indifferent health. If a prisoner is in bad or indifferent health the Medical Officer shall record the cause of the disability, such as enlarged spleen, anemia scurvy, etc., on the history ticket and admission register.

Prisoners received from unhealthy districts

Rule 778

Prisoners received from unhealthy districts shall be kept under special medical observation for one or two weeks after admission, in order that the effect of imprisonment and prison diet upon them may be noted. Those addicted to opium or other narcotics shall be placed under medical treatment in order to purge them of the habit.

Deduction for clothes, etc., when weighing prisoners

Rule 779

When being weighed, male prisoners shall wear shalwar only, women prisoners shall be fully attired and deduction made for the articles worn.

Result of weighment or prisoners

Rule 780

- (i) After each monthly weighment of prisoners, the junior Medical Officer shall note the result of weighments in his report book stating
 - (a) the names of the prisoners who have lost weight and the amount lost by each;
 - (b) the names of those steadily losing weight and
 - (c) the reasons in brief for loss in weight.

The report shall be put up before the Medical Officer for any action he considers necessary.
- (ii) The Medical Officer shall himself select a number of prisoners at each monthly inspection of the Medical Officer.
- (iii) All prisoners who have lost 1 Kgr 361 Gr. or more in weight shall be separately paraded for the inspection of the Medical Officer.

Convalescent infirm parties

Rule 781

- (i) The Medical Officer shall place in the infirm party all old and infirm prisoners and in the convalescent party all prisoners who are recovering from serious illness or are otherwise out of condition. Infirm party shall be kept within the hospital enclosure. The prisoners in infirm and convalescent parties shall be allowed extra rest at least one hour after unlocking and for two hours at midday.
- (ii) Prisoners in infirm and convalescent parties shall be given such light labour and extra articles of diet and clothing as the Medical Officer considers necessary, which shall be recorded on the prisoner's history tickets. The Medical Officer shall inspect the infirm party daily and the convalescent party once a week.
- (iii) During the winter old and infirm prisoners shall receive 1/5 chatak of oil weekly for rubbing into the skin.
- (iv) Prisoners suffering from active illness shall be admitted to hospital; and not treated in the convalescent party.

Convalescents and infirm to be weighed weekly

Rule 782

Prisoners in convalescent and infirm parties shall remain together and shall, ordinarily be kept in hospital. They shall be weighed every week on such day as the Medical Officer may fix and the weighments recorded on the history tickets. The daily average in the parties shall be shown in the column "remarks" of the monthly return of the sick.

Admission to and removal from the convalescent and infirm parties

Rule 783

Under the orders of the Medical Officer, prisoners who have, recovered health and no longer require special attention shall be removed from the parties. No prisoner shall be placed in or discharged from the parties except by order of the Medical Officer.

Procedure when prisoners are losing weight

Rule 784

Whenever an unusual proportion of the prisoners have lost weight or there is a general tendency to scurvy or to ulceration of the gums and anaemia, or increase of admission to hospital from dysentery or other bowel complaints the Medical Officer shall mark enquiry to ascertain the cause. The diet of the, prisoners shall then be varied by the liberal issue of animal food in lieu of dal; potatoes, onions and radishes may be substituted for a portion of the vegetable supply, Both the Superintendent and the Medical Officer shall occasionally visit the prisoners while at their meals, and ascertain if there are any complaints regarding the food kind if much of it is left unconsumed. If the food appears to be unpalatable due to lack of variety, this defect shall be remedied as far as possible.

Labour and loss of weight

Rule 785

If the loss of weight is more marked amongst prisoners on one form of labour than on another, the tasks shall be carefully regulated and the prisoners employed on that particular task changed. Prisoners who at three successive weighments are found to be losing weight, or in whom the loss of weight at any weighment is found to be over 2 Kgr 268 Gr, shall ordinarily be changed to a lighter form of work. On the other hand, the Medical Officer shall guard against being

imposed upon by prisoners who scheme to lose weights, by causing such prisoners to be weighed unexpectedly at short intervals.

Prophylaxis against certain diseases

Rule 786

Prophylaxis against malaria, its sequelae and certain bowel diseases shall be carried out before the season for such diseases.

Provision of a hospital

Rule 787

In every prison a hospital for the reception of sick prisoners shall be provided.

Prisoners complaining of illness to be examined

Rule 788

Every prisoner complaining of illness shall be brought before the Medical Officer or the junior Medical Officer who shall examine him and determine whether he shall be treated as an out-patient or admitted to hospital: Prisoners shall not be detained or kept under observation, but shall be admitted and brought on hospital registers.

Articles to be supplied to patients

Rule 789

Each patient shall be supplied with an iron bed, a mattress and a pillow stuffed with cotton, a pillow cover, two bed sheets, a cotton kurta and pyjama, a towel, a woollen jacket in winter and as many blankets as the Medical Officer deems necessary.

Maintenance of bed head tickets and temperature charts

Rule 790

Over every occupied bed in hospital shall be placed a ticket where shall be recorded full particulars of the history and examination of the particulars the progress, diet and treatment of the disease in a case of dysentery, it shall be noted whether the prisoner suffered from the infection in his own home or had acquired it in the prison, and in every case of fever a record of the temperature shall be kept on the temperature chart. Suitable clasp frames for holding their tickets shall be provided.

Cleanliness of clothing and bedding

Rule 791

The Medical Officer shall take measures to ensure the cleanliness of clothing and bedding. A proper place for washing and boiling soiled clothes shall be provided in every prison. Blankets and woollen jackets shall be frequently exposed to the sun and washed in phenyle solution, if considered necessary.

Similarly hospital clothing and blankets, etc., shall be treated separately.

Sick prisoners to baths daily

Rule 792

Prisoners in hospital, who are not too ill, shall bathe daily or at such times as the Medical Officer may direct.

The feeding of sick prisoners

Rule 793

As a rule, sick prisoners shall receive four meals a day. There shall be a separate kitchen in the hospital enclosure, a special cook appointed and suitable brass or aluminum vessels provided for the preparation of food for the sick. Arrangements shall be made for the frequent feeding of sick prisoners and for having milk constantly ready. The feeding of the sick and infirms, etc., shall take place in the presence of the junior Medical Officer.

Convalescent prisoners do Night work

Rule 794

As a certain amount of physical exertion is an important actor in the maintenance and improvement of health, and keeps the mind occupied, prisoners who are convalescing may be provided with some light work preferably in hospital without prescribing any definite task.

Intimation of serious illness to relatives

Rule 795

When a prisoner is seriously ill, intimation shall be sent to the relatives and in the case of under trial prisoners to the Court concerned also, for informing his relatives. Ordinarily intimation shall be sent through post, but in urgent cases telegrams may be sent at Government expense.

Treatment of infectious disease - Disposal of body in such case

Rule 796

Prisoners suffering from any infectious disease shall be treated in isolation ward. After the recovery or death of a patient, his clothing, bedding, etc., shall be thoroughly disinfected or destroyed and the room in which the case occurred, or was treated, shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according to the nature of case. The Medical officer shall give written directions for the segregation of prisoners suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from infectious diseases for cleaning and disinfecting the ward or cell, and for disinfecting or destroying any clothing or bedding. Before removal for burial, the body of any prisoner who dies of cholera, small-pox or other communicable diseases, shall be wrapped in a sheet saturated with one part of corrosive sublimate in 1,000 parts of water or some other strong disinfectant. Such corpse shall be disposed of with the least possible delay and surrounded with ample supply of quick lime.

Report on occurrence of cholera

Rule 797

When a case of cholera occurs in a prison, it shall be reported by telegram to the Inspector-General and the Director of Health Services, and by letters to Superintendent of neighboring prisons, the nearest Civil and Military authorities and the District or Municipal Health Officer, in whose jurisdiction the prison situated. If other cases follow, a daily report of the progress of the disease and the measures taken to meet it, shall be sent to the Inspector-General and the Director of Health Services. The report shall be submitted daily for fifteen days after the occurrence of the last case.

Precautions in cholera cases

Rule 798

All cases of cholera or suspected cholera shall at once be inoculated with a full dose of I.c.c. of anti-cholera vaccine, and similar arrangements shall be made as soon as possible to inoculate the rest of the prison population. The Medical Officer shall take immediate step of ensure that water supply is protected from any possible contamination and all open wells shall be chlorinated with bleaching powder. The cook use shall be inspected and the milk shall be haled under his personal supervision.

The sanitary arrangements shall receive special attention all latrines and open drains shall be kept scrupulously clean and liberally sprinkled with lime. The issue of raw vegetables and fruits shall be temporarily stopped.

Disinfection of wards and latrines

Rule 799

The floor and walls of the room where a case of cholera has occurred shall be disinfected with some strong disinfectant. Similar disinfection of the latrines used by the patient and any place where he may have vomited or passed excreta shall be carried out. Earthen vessels used by the patient shall be burnt and destroyed. Metal utensils shall be treated with fire or boiling.

Precautions when epidemic disease is prevalent

Rule 800

In the event of the outbreak of an epidemic disease in the vicinity of the prison, care shall be taken to prevent communication of the disease to the prisoners, either through new admissions or by prison staff. Newly admitted prisoners whether under-trial or convicted shall be kept in quarantine. If the disease is preventable by inoculation (e.g., cholera, plague, etc.), it shall be carried out forthwith.

Avoidance of damp and chill, etc

Rule 801

Damp and chills should be avoided. The numbers confined in each ward shall be reduced by providing short-term prisoners with temporary accommodation elsewhere.

Purification of drinking water

Rule 802

All wells and reservoirs shall be properly chlorinated. No water shall be issued for drinking or cooking unless it has been chlorinated.

Food supplies and vessels to receive attention

Rule 803

Food shall be constantly inspected to ensure that it is of good quality, cleanly prepared and well cooked. The issue of uncooked food, raw vegetables and fruits shall be temporarily suspended. All foodstuffs not required immediately especially milk shall be boiled and stored in a cool place in vessels scalded with boiling water and protected from flies. The cookhouse shall be closely supervised by the Medical Officer and all refuse shall be removed and burnt in an incinerator. The drains from the cookhouse shall be cleaned daily and liberally dusted with bleaching powder. The cooks shall be inoculated against cholera and small pox. A close watch shall be kept on their state of health.

Strict attention to sanitary matters

Rule 804

Strict attention should be paid to all sanitary arrangements, especially to conservancy, care being taken that the latrine pans are cleaned immediately after use. The number of sweepers shall be increased.

Investigation as to the origin the first case

Rule 805

In any epidemic it is of the greatest importance to ascertain all the circumstances connected with the occurrence of the first case, and a very careful investigation shall be made in order to discover, if possible, how it originated. Such enquiries, if delayed, are usually unsatisfactory

Measures against small-pox

Rule 806

- (i) In the case of small-pox the patient shall be isolated and treated in a separate ward or tent in a remote part of the prison. The contacts shall be vaccinated at once and isolated for fifteen days. The Medical Officer will take immediate steps to vaccinate the entire staff and all the prisoners.
- (ii) The clothing and personal effects of small-pox patients should be thoroughly washed in a strong disinfectant and thereafter disinfected in a high pressure steam disinfector or thoroughly boiled.
- (iii) The barrack in which a case of small-pox has occurred shall be vacated at once, the floors and berths washed with a disinfectant and the walls white-washed and the door and windows left open for a week when it may, if necessary, be reoccupied.

Measures against plague

Rule 807

To prevent the occurrence of plague, the systematic destruction of rats, more specially in grain godown and food stores, shall be carried out throughout the year. The measures, in respect of the isolation and treatment of the patient, the evacuation of infected barrack and the disinfection of clothing are similar to those detailed in the case of small-pox, but on the appearance of plague in a prison, the staff and prisoners should be inoculated with anti-plague vaccine, a supply of which can be obtained from the District Health Officer.

Measures against louse-borne disease, relapsing fever and typhus

Rule 808

In the case of louse-borne diseases, relapsing fever and typhus, the detection of the first case shall be followed by measures similar to those detailed in the case of plague so far as the isolation and treatment of the patient is concerned. The clothing and personal effects of the patient and contacts shall be disinfected in a steam pressure disinfector and the contacts shall be kept under observation for a week. In the event of the occurrence of further cases, the “de-lousing” of the prison population shall be carried out, and repeated once a week until the disease is brought under control.

Officers of Health to be consulted on out-break of an Infectious disease

Rule 809

The Director of Health Services being the official adviser in all matters of health, he or the Assistant Director of Health Services, or the nearest District or Municipal Officer of Health shall be consulted at once when any infectious disease or obscure sickness becomes prevalent or threatens to become prevalent in the prison.