

**Ministry of Justice
Department of Penitentiary
Administration**

General Director

Central Offices

- ◆ Personnel
- ◆ Personnel Formation and Upgrading
- ◆ Inspectors
- ◆ Convicts and Prisons management
- ◆ Services
- ◆ Studies, research and automatization



International Congress Pisa, March 5th 1995

**Regional
Administrative
Districts**

**Ancona
Bari
Bologna
Cagliari
Catanzaro
Firenze
Genova
Messina
Milano**

**Napoli
Padova
Palermo
Perugia
Pescara
Potenza
Roma
Torino**

Superior Institute of Penitentiary Studies

Institutes - Social Service Centers - Formation Schools



**Areas:
Educational
Sanitary
Safety and Order Administration
Social Service Administration**

“ Penitentiary treatment must be inspired by humanity and must ensure the respect of personal dignity”

From: Penitentiary Rules

Organization and Services

Sanitary care in prison is under the responsibility of the Penitentiary Sanitary Service. It is therefore in the domain of the Ministry of Justice.

All the Penitentiary Sanitary Services (PSS) are organized and run by the Department of the Penitentiary Administration and are independent from the National Health Service which in some cases may offer supplementary assistance such as hospitalization and specific diagnostic procedures.

The aim of the PSS is to preserve the health of the convicts to promote their physical and psychological welfare. To obtain these goals the Department of Penitentiary Administration provides Clinical Centers, Infirmarys and Medical Posts.

Medical assistance in prison.

When he is admitted to prison the convict undergoes medical examination and a personal clinical file is opened. Following informed consent he is also tested for HIV.

The convicts are medically examined whenever they have to be transferred to another penitentiary institution. This to verify their ability to travel.

Everyone has the right to be medically examined whenever he requests it. To be visited by a specialist one must forward a request to his Penitentiary Doctor. The possibility to consult his personal physician is also contemplated by the law.

Within the Sanitary Area the following services are provided:

- ◆ Medical examination at entrance
- ◆ General medical examination
- ◆ Specialist Consultation
- ◆ In the most important Institutions diagnostic examinations such as X-ray, EKG, EEG, Ecography, hematological examinations, ecc., are also performed.
- ◆ Medical an Psychological specific assistance for drug addicts, alchoolics an HIV positive individuals.
- ◆ Nursing assistance
- ◆ Medical Prevention, vaccinations for tetanus, typhoid, hepatitis B and influenza are available.

The basic personal hygienic rules are enforced to prevent dermatological diseases (scabies, lice, ecc.,) as well as the diffusion of blood-borne diseases (viral hepatitis, syphilis, AIDS, ecc.,).

It is also important to propose a correct nutrition, to avoid overweight and to promote physical activity.

The following are the principal duties of the Penitentiary Doctor:

- ◆ He has the responsibility to visit daily the sick convicts and those who have requested it as well as to provide the suitable therapy.
- ◆ He must supervise the hygienical conditions of the penitentiary environment by means of frequent controls and inspections in the single cells, in the kitchens, in the laundry and in the infirmaries.
- ◆ He must control the nutrition of the convicts to assure an acceptable palatability of the food and its nutritional and caloric content. He also has to forward special dietary requests in relation to specific clinical situations.
- ◆ He must organize and take care of the Pharmacy of the prison.
- ◆ He must supervise the service of medical ward and the nursing assistance. He also coordinates the Specialists service.
- ◆ He is also the Doctor of the Penitentiary Police Corp.
- ◆ The Penitentiary Doctor is a member of the following organisms: