

1) What is your policy referencing those detained in custody whom require their current prescribed medication that they don't have on their persons upon arrival at custody?

2) Referencing the above, under your policy, what is a reasonable time frame for the PIC's previously prescribed medication to be collected and by whom?

The Policy you are referring to is the WMP Detention and Custody Policy in line with APP College of Policing:

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/detention-and-custody-2/response-arrest-and-detention/#fitness-for-detention>

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/detention-and-custody-2/detainee-care/#managing-medication>

### **Responsibility for medication in custody**

The custody officer is responsible for:

- safekeeping of the medication by storing it in a locked receptacle to prevent unauthorised access
- appropriate storage of medication, eg, some insulin and other drugs must be stored in a fridge
- providing the detainee with the opportunity to self-administer the medication at the prescribed intervals
- ensuring that the correct medication at the right dosage is available to the detainee
- recording information in the custody record (including a record of all consultations with healthcare professionals).

### **Methods by which medication may have been brought into custody**

These include provision by:

- a detainee, friend, relative or by the police when detaining the person, see note below,
- the police in accordance with directions from the healthcare professional
- a healthcare professional
- the police after collection via a private prescription
- hospital staff when a detainee has been to hospital for treatment while in police detention

Note: the medication may not be what the detainee, friends or family say it is, or what is recorded on the packaging, and it can be used to conceal other items. The medication should never be distributed to the detainee for self-administration prior to it being checked by an appropriate healthcare professional.

### **Collection of detainee's medication (WMP protocol)**

If the detainee is arrested at their home address then officers should make every attempt to collect the detainee's medication prior to leaving for a custody suite.

If the detainee is not at their home address then officers should not deviate to collect the medication and should bring the detainee direct to a custody suite.

**Collection of detainee's medication when in custody**

At the earliest opportunity the Custody Officer will identify if the detainee requires their medication collecting from their home address or pharmacy. This will be identified in the detainee risk assessment.

Once this has been established the Custody Officer will consider which is the most suitable method to collect the detainee's medication.

**Note**

Under no circumstances should a detainee be allowed to self-medicate and documented advice/guidance should always be sought from a Prime care practitioner.

**Collection of the detainees medication**

When a detainees arrives at a custody suite and it is identified through the detainees risk assessment that medication is required, then the following options should be considered:

If the detainee is arrested at their home address the arresting officers must follow the detainee prompt card which states that the detainees' medication must accompany the detainee into custody.

1. Custody officers should consider requesting a family member or friend to bring the medication to the custody suite.
2. The arresting officer will collect the medication from the detainee's home address or from a pharmacy.
3. The investigating officer will collect the detainees' medication on route to the custody suite. The custody officer should communicate this to the investigating officers prior to them leaving their parade station.
4. If the detainee is arrested on behalf of the foreign force then the arresting LPU will have responsibility for collection of the detainees' medication until the foreign force takes control of the detainee.

For options 2, 3 and 4 an incident log will be created by the custody officer.

**Note**

If the detainee's medication needs to be collected as a matter of urgency and there are no officers available then the custody officer will immediately seek medical advice/assistance.