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**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING  
TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

**(CPT)**

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**HEALTH-CARE STAFFING LEVELS IN PRISONS**

**Proposed list of criteria which may justify  
a reinforcement of health-care staff**

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**Document prepared  
by the Medical Group  
(based on document CPT (2002) 16)**

Further to the document on “health-care staffing levels in prisons” [CPT (2002) 16] and the discussions held at the last meeting of the medical group, it is proposed to use the rule of “1 full-time of a doctor per 300 inmates” and “1 full-time post of a nurse per 50 inmates” as minimum requirements.

However, this rule may have to be adjusted to the specificities of a given establishment. In this connection, the following criteria may justify a reinforcement of the health-care staff (doctors and nurses):

- Establishment accommodating a high number of remand prisoners
- Establishment with a high turnover of prisoners
- Establishment for women
- Establishment for children and/or juveniles
- Establishment with a very low number of inmates benefiting from activities
- Establishment with a high number of inmates with a history of drugs
- Establishment located in a country with a high density of doctors in the outside world (equivalence of care)
- High prevalence of TB in the general population, and, more particularly, within the prison
- High prevalence of HIV+ and AIDS in the general population, and, more particularly, within the prison
- Remote location of the establishment (far from any hospital)

In addition, it is desirable to systematically verify:

- the number of full-time posts of medical staff (actual number of working hours)
- the post of the head doctor (actual number of working hours)
- the total number of medical consultations
- the exact time spent for each consultation (upon arrival and during subsequent consultations)
- whether the medical service also cares for the treatment of the establishment’s staff (and their families).