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Detention services order 09/2016 Detention centre rule 35 and Short- term Holding Facility rule 32

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Requirements from doctors and other healthcare staff in immigration removal centres (IRCs)

This page tells you about the responsibilities of doctors and other healthcare staff in immigration removal centres in relation to rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

[Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001](#) reports must be prepared and submitted by doctors only. Other healthcare professionals (whether working in the immigration removal centre (IRC) or elsewhere) may assist in the examination or assessment of detainees and in the preparation of reports but the final responsibility for making a report rests with the doctors.

It is important that nurses and other healthcare professionals are aware that they must report to an IRC doctor any detainee who claims to have been a victim of torture or gives an indication that this might have been the case.

Shortly after their arrival at an IRC all detainees are, as part of the admissions process, given a healthcare screening, which includes being asked whether they have been tortured.

An appointment with an IRC doctor must be made for detainees who answer 'yes' to this question or otherwise give an indication that they may have been a victim of torture. Appointments should be made as quickly as possible (with interpretation, for example via a telephone interpreting service, where there are concerns that a person cannot adequately understand or communicate in English).

The detainee has to see the doctor in order for an assessment to be made as to whether or not the doctor has concerns that the detainee may have been the victim of torture. The healthcare team should promptly follow up on detainees who do not arrive for their scheduled appointment.

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