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- h. tell the prisoner to raise his arms level with his shoulders with his fingers apart and his palms facing downwards; then search each arm by running open hands together along the upper and lower sides;
- i. check between the prisoner's fingers and look at the palms and backs of the hands;
- j. using the open hand with the fingers spread out comfortably, check the front of the prisoner's body from neck to waist; the sides of the body from under the armpits to the waist; and the front of the prisoner's waistband;
- k. check the prisoner's back from collar to waist, the rear of the waistband and the seat of the trousers;
- l. check the rear and sides of each leg, separately, from the crotch to the ankle, and ask the prisoner to lift each foot so that the underside of the footwear can be checked;
- m. closely search the prisoner's footwear after this has been removed and check the soles of his feet;
- n. check the front of the abdomen and front and sides of each leg; and
- o. lastly, look at the area around the prisoner for anything that he may have dropped before or during the search.

At (k), the officer may require the prisoner to turn round; and, at (n), to turn to face the officer again.

#### Rub down searches of female prisoners

67.6 A rub down search of a female prisoner must be conducted by a female officer. The search procedure is the same as for men but staff should ensure that when searching the upper body they check around and under the breasts. The upper part of a prisoner's legs may also be more difficult to search if she is wearing a skirt rather than trousers. But the searching officer must satisfy herself as far as she can that contraband is not concealed, by running her hands around each leg outside the skirt.

#### Strip searches

67.7 As with other forms of searching, metal detectors and other forms of equipment may be used to assist in the strip search.

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67.8

A strip search should normally take place in the prisoner's cell or in suitable premises in the reception area or elsewhere in the establishment. All such premises should provide complete privacy for the prisoner and the staff conducting the search.

67.9

Two officers of the same sex as the prisoner should carry out the strip search to ensure thoroughness of search and protection against allegations of impropriety. Additional staff should only be permitted to attend the search in the most exceptional circumstances, for example for control and restraint purposes.

67.10

The following is a basic guide for strip searching a male prisoner:-

- a. the prisoner should remove his shoes and socks and hand them over for examination. Particular attention should be paid to searching footwear
- b. the prisoner should lift each foot in turn for staff to examine the soles
- c. the prisoner should remove his trousers and underpants and pass them over for examination
- d. the prisoner should stand with his legs apart and the lower part of his body should be observed from front and rear
- e. where it is suspected that a prisoner may have secreted an item in the anal or genital area, he should be made to position himself in such a way as to allow staff to confirm this visually; the precise positioning of the prisoner - bending over, squatting etc - is at the discretion of the Governor but suitable standards of dignity and decency for the prisoner must be observed
- f. the prisoner's trousers and underpants should be returned to him without delay and he should be given time to put them on again
- g. he should then be required to remove and hand over for examination the clothing from the top half of his body
- h. the prisoner should be required to hold his arms up, and the top part of his body should be observed front and back
- i. the prisoner's remaining clothing should be returned to him without delay
- j. the prisoner's head may then be checked as for a

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rub down search.

67.11 The search of the prisoner's body must be visual only. It should normally be necessary to touch only the prisoner's head. The search procedure must be conducted as briskly as is consistent with the need to examine each article of clothing closely. At no stage in the procedure must the prisoner be required to be totally undressed.

67.12 A strip search on reception forms part of the overall reception procedure and on such occasions a prisoner may need to remove all clothing. However, the prisoner must be given a dressing gown or large clean towel at the start of the search.

#### Strip Searches of Female Prisoners

67.13 The strip search procedure for a female is essentially the same as for a male. However, it is normally the practice to require the prisoner to remove the clothing from the top half of her body first. The prisoner must be given a dressing gown to wear during the rest of the search. She is required to lift this so that staff observe the bottom half of her body properly. Staff must also check that nothing has been concealed in sleeves or pockets.

#### Intimate Searches

67.14 It is unlawful to conduct an intimate search of a prisoner except in the following circumstances:

- (i) where the prisoner consents;
- (ii) as medical treatment in circumstances where the law allows treatment without consent: that is, where the prisoner is incapable of giving an informed consent (eg, he is unconscious), and the examination is necessary in order to prevent death or serious harm to the prisoner.

67.15 Governors and non medical staff must not conduct intimate searches. Medical staff may conduct intimate searches in the circumstances above if, in the medical officer's clinical opinion, such an examination is warranted for clinical reasons. It will be good practice to seek the opinion of a second doctor and to have the examination witnessed by a health care professional. Examinations under (i) above should only take place with the consent of the governor. Examinations under (ii) must be reported to the governor as soon as is practicable.

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