

Title	Establishment of Pharmacies through Conversion of Existing Infrastructure, Internal Human Resources Capability and Offender Labour
Organisation	Department of Correctional Services
Innovation	<p>Infrastructure projects often involve the building of required facilities utilising service providers. The uniqueness of the pharmacy establishment project in the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is that it was executed by staff, and the use of external service providers was limited to procurement of required material for civil works. The DCS pharmaceutical services personnel assisted with the registration of the new pharmacies. The project entails the conversion of storerooms or offices to fully licenced pharmacies. The pharmacies were established using existing infrastructure, some of which was underutilised and dilapidated.</p> <p>There were no additional funds allocated for the project and a reprioritisation of current projects was done to ensure the success of the project. Offender labour was utilised which in reducing labour costs. The use of offender labour further contributed to their skills development.</p>
Impact	<p>Prior to the implementation of the project, officials were required to travel long distances to collect medicines from the nearest departmental pharmacy which for some was anything up to 300 kilometres for a single trip. This impacted negatively on the employee's other responsibilities within the department.</p> <p>Effective management of ailments requires that prescribed treatment be provided immediately or as soon as possible. The long distances between some of the correctional centres and the supplying pharmacies meant that there were delays in the provision of treatment, especially for management of acute conditions, which took more than 7 days in some instances. There was therefore a reduction in waiting times because of this project and the lives of patients are saved as a result.</p> <p>There was also a reduction in transport costs, reduction of costs on wholesale and private pharmacy accounts. There was also efficient and effective pharmaceutical services management.</p>