

Mental Health Act 2016 Implementation Newsletter

No. 8 – 27 September 2016

Our new webpage has arrived!!!

Welcome to our eighth edition

Our new, improved website has gone live!

We're very excited about our website – it's more streamlined and user friendly and allows users to easily access all information and resources they need at the click of a button! It will also smoothly transition to an on-going web-site from 5 March 2017.

We encourage you to check it out!

The update has changed our shortcut URL. Our new shortcut is

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/mental-health-act/>

Please add this to your favourites, and remove the old one.

If you have any comments on our new website, we would love to hear from you!

Administrator Training Workshop – Monday, 17 October 2016

This important workshop has been organised specifically for Administrators to provide information on their roles and responsibilities under the new Act.

We strongly encourage all Administrators to attend.

This workshop will provide an invaluable opportunity for Administrators to familiarise themselves with the Act and to seek clarification on particular aspects of the Act.

A separate workshop for Administrator Delegates will be held in early 2017.



A message from Assoc. Prof John Allan, A/Executive Director



The Chief Psychiatrist Policies form an important part of the Act.

It is mandatory for the chief psychiatrist to develop Policies in some areas, such as the application of the treatment criteria and the 'less restrictive way' to treat patients. Other policies may be made at the discretion of the chief psychiatrist.

Eighteen (18) Policies have now been approved-in-principle. These are available for all members of the public to peruse.

All staff of authorised mental health services (AMHS) need to take the time to read and understand these policies.



Chief Psychiatrist Policies

The Chief Psychiatrist Policies will be available on our web-site. They cover the following topics:

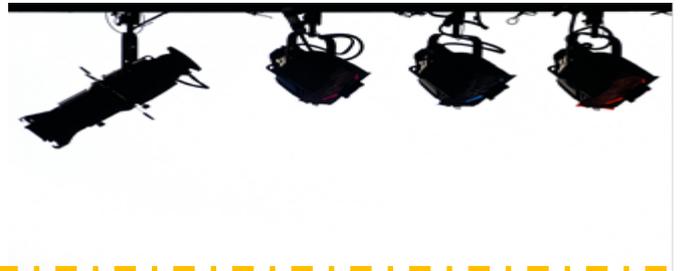
- Advance Health Directives and 'Less Restrictive Way' of Treatment
- Appointment of Authorised Doctors and Authorised Mental Health Practitioners
- Clinical Need for Medication
- Classified Patients
- Electroconvulsive Therapy
- Independent Patient Rights Advisers
- Management of Complaints and Treatment and Care of Patients
- Managing Involuntary Patient Absences
- Mechanical Restraint
- Notification to Chief Psychiatrist of Critical Incidents and Non-Compliance with Act
- Patient Records
- Physical Restraint
- Psychiatrist Reports for Persons Charged with a Serious Offence
- Right of a Patient to Request a Second Opinion
- Seclusion
- Support to the Mental Health Review Tribunal
- Treatment and Care of Patients
- Treatment Criteria and Assessment of Capacity

The Policies will be formally made by the chief psychiatrist prior to the commencement of the Act on 5 March 2017. There may be minor amendments to the Policies at that time. Two further Policies, related to managing forensic order patients and high risk patients, are also under development.

Emergency Departments

The Mental Health Act Implementation Team has met with the Queensland Emergency Department Strategic Advisory Panel, and nurse educators associated with the Panel, to develop training materials for emergency departments. A strategy for the roll-out of training is being developed for endorsement by the Panel and training is expected to occur from November.

Spotlight! e-Learning Package – Pilot Testing



As you know, we are developing an eLearning package on the Mental Health Act 2016. We have asked for authorised doctors, authorised mental health professionals and other interested persons who would like to be involved in pilot testing the package. Thanks goes to those who have responded already.

The testing will occur in early October. Participants will need to be able to complete the training within this timeframe.

We expect the e-Learning package to be available for training purposes from early November.



Chief Psychiatrist Practice Guidelines

Chief Psychiatrist Practice Guidelines are being developed on key subject areas of the Act to supplement the Chief Psychiatrist Policies. The Practice Guidelines establish operational requirements for AMHSs and will fulfil a similar function to the existing Mental Health Act 2000 Resource Guide.

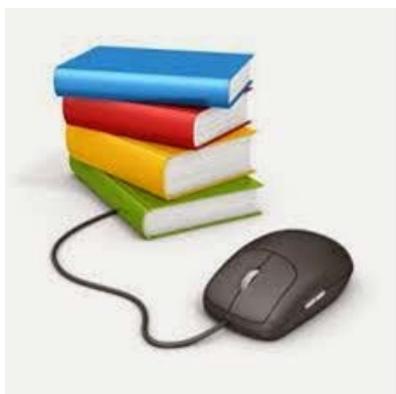
Approximately 20 Practice Guidelines will be developed. The Guidelines will cover key areas such as patient transportation, seclusion and mechanical restraint, and processes relating to psychiatrist reports.

Consultation on Practice Guidelines commenced in September 2016 to ensure the workability of the Guidelines and the associated forms. Publication of the approved Guidelines on the Mental Health Act website will occur in a staged manner as they are finalised.

Training in capacity and developing advanced health directives

The Queensland Centre for Mental Health Learning (QCMHL) has been engaged to develop training for authorised doctors and authorised mental health practitioners in assessing capacity.

The package will also train doctors in developing advanced health directives with consumers. These are key aspects of the new legislation and it is essential that clinicians upgrade their skills in these areas.



AMHS Monthly Progress Reporting

Thank you to all AMHS who submitted their Local Implementation Progress Report for September. We received an excellent return rate and were very pleased to see that the majority of AMHS appear to be progressing well.

The progress report provides the Mental Health Act Implementation Committee with an important line of sight of local implementation activities and assists in identifying where AMHS require further assistance or support.

We would encourage all AMHS to complete the monthly progress report. **The next report is due on 14 October 2016.**



Feedback please!

What would you like to be included in future editions of the eNewsletter or on the [web-site](#)?

Feel free to contact the Team with any questions at MHA.Review@health.qld.gov.au