



THE AUTHORISED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER Newsletter

July 2003

CHIEF PSYCHIATRIST OPERATIONAL CIRCULARS

The following Operational Circulars have been published to assist clinicians with regard to the policies and expectations of the Chief Psychiatrist. They will guide clinicians in decision making and best practice.

The titles of the Operational Circulars are as follows:

1. **Community Treatment Orders** - Specifically what a clinician can do to revoke a CTO when the supervising psychiatrist is not available.
2. **Matters to be reported to the Chief Psychiatrist** - Unexpected deaths and serious incidents. Includes a list of specific situations when the Chief Psychiatrist must be informed.
3. **Request for a second opinion on psychiatric treatment.** (section 111 of the Mental Health Act 1996)
4. **Written approval for Medical Treatment** - Delegation with regard to responsibilities under section 110 of the Mental Health Act 1996
5. **Access to personal records-** The issues that arise in relation to section 160 and 161 of the Mental Health Act 1996
5. **Request to access certain information about a patient** (s.205) - The Chief Psychiatrist's responsibilities in allowing certain information to be made available to certain persons.
6. **Proper completion of Transport Orders (Form 3)** - Of specific interest to AMHPs the Chief Psychiatrist has set out his policy regarding use of the police.
7. **Transfer responsibilities** to Heads of Service in relation to section 112 of the Mental Health Act 1996.

These Operational Circulars can be accessed on the Chief Psychiatrist's Internet website-
www.chiefpsychiatrist.health.wa.gov.au

THE NEW OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PSYCHIATRIST WEBSITE

www.chiefpsychiatrist.health.wa.gov.au

In July 2003 the new website for the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist (OCP) went on line. It is an Internet website and includes the following-

- The role and responsibilities of the Chief Psychiatrist page.
- The functions of the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist page.
- Issues Page - The issues managed at the Office including Complaints, Standards Monitoring and Clinical Reviews, AMHPs, Education, policy development and the helpdesk.
- Documents Page - including the Mental Health Act 1996, the Clinicians' Guide, the Medical Practitioner's Flowchart, the CTO Practitioners' Guide, AMHP Guidelines and previous Jigsaws, the CTO Review, The Police Protocol, all the Mental Health Act pamphlets, the Mental Health Act Forms (requires a password) and the Operational Circulars.
- Links page - with links to other useful sites.
- Contacts page - Names, telephones and addresses of Office of the Chief Psychiatrist's staff.
- Coming Events - Activities that are instigated by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist or which involve OCP staff



CLINICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist is currently revising their Clinical Review Program to anchor the process in a Clinical Governance Framework.

The Chief Psychiatrist will be providing information sessions for all interested mental health practitioners, on the following:

- Clinical Review Framework
- Areas of inquiry
- Methodology
- Reporting and auditing
- How health services can prepare for a Clinical Review

The following sessions have been scheduled:

East Metropolitan: Tuesday 5th August 9:30 –11:00 am – Royal Perth Hospital – Bruce Hunt Lecture Theatre

North Metropolitan: Tuesday 19th August 9:30 – 11:00 – Graylands Hospital – Seminar Room 3 Gascoyne House

South Metropolitan: Tuesday 26th August 9:30 – 11:00 – Fremantle Hospital – Lecture Theatre F Block

Rural Mental Health Managers are being briefed separately.

For more information about the sessions or to **REGISTER** your interest in attending please contact **Dr. Theresa Marshall on 9222 4120**.

Drugs and Therapeutics Committee Guidelines

The WA Drugs and Therapeutics Committee have published two sets of guidelines on Antipsychotics and Antidepressants. They are primarily for Medical Practitioners but they give useful information for AMHPs who at times may need to advise Medical Practitioners about psychotropic drugs.

You are encouraged to visit their website on www.wadtc.org.au/pdsc/guidelines.cfm and download the guidelines. If you are unable to do that contact Tim and he will send you a hardcopy of the Guidelines

Review of Skills Program

The next Review of Skills program is on 28, 29 and 30 October 2003 at the Department of Health. A few places will be kept for those AMHPs who would like a refresher and wish to attend the program. You will require the permission of your Manager. If you are interested please contact Tim.

Six Monthly Notifications

Thank you to those AMHPs who have sent in their notifications. If you have not done so already please forward your notification forms as soon as possible.

The Chief Psychiatrist will be writing to those AMHPs who have not used their powers under the Act for at least the last year in order to see if they still need to be authorised. The intention is not to automatically revoke those who have not used their powers but rather to note if they continue to be in a clinical position where those powers may be used. For example if an AMHP is now doing non-clinical work there would be no requirement to continue on the Register. No revocation will take place without communication between the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and the AMHP. Any AMHP who is revoked may re-register without completing a further training course when they return to clinical duties which require the AMHP status.