



Admission of children and young people to adult mental health wards

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Type of document	Policy
Target audience	All inpatient staff
Document purpose	Revised policy to assist relevant professionals in applying the Mental Health Act 1983 and Children Act 2004 requirements

Document consultation		
AMH – Wirral	Yes	Clinical directors
AMH – West	Yes	Clinical directors
AMH – East	Yes	Clinical directors
D&A services	N/A	
CAMHS	Yes	Clinical directors and Modern Matron
LD services	No	
CCWC services	N/A	
Corporate services	Yes	Associate Director of Safe Services
Staff side	No	
Other –	N/A	
Groups / Committees	No	
Involvement taskforce	No	

Approving meeting	Patient Safety and Effectiveness Sub Committee	20-Jun-13
Original issue date	Mar-10	
Implementation date	Jun-13	

CWP documents to be read in conjunction with	HR6 CP1 CP40	Mandatory Employee Learning (MEL) policy Admission and discharge from hospital Safeguarding children
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Training requirements	No - Training requirements for this policy are in accordance with the CWP Training Needs Analysis (TNA)
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Financial resource implications	No
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Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Initial assessment	Yes/No	Comments
Does this document affect one group less or more favourably than another on the basis of:		
• Race	No	
• Ethnic origins (including gypsies and travellers)	No	
• Nationality	No	
• Gender	No	
• Culture	No	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion or belief • Sexual orientation including lesbian, gay and bisexual people • Age • Disability - learning disabilities, physical disability, sensory impairment and mental health problems 	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>	Additional safeguards for children and young people under 18
Is there any evidence that some groups are affected differently?	No	
If you have identified potential discrimination, are there any exceptions valid, legal and/or justifiable? N/A		
Is the impact of the document likely to be negative? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so can the impact be avoided? • What alternatives are there to achieving the document without the impact? • Can we reduce the impact by taking different action? 	<p>No</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	
Where an adverse or negative impact on equality group(s) has been identified during the initial screening process a full EIA assessment should be conducted.		

If you have identified a potential discriminatory impact of this procedural document, please refer it to the human resource department together with any suggestions as to the action required to avoid / reduce this impact.

For advice in respect of answering the above questions, please contact the human resource department.

Was a full impact assessment required?	No	
What is the level of impact?	Low	

Document change history

Changes made with rationale and impact on practice
1. Full review and changes made to previous policy on account of changes to reporting requirements and commissioning arrangements

External references

References
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health Act (1983) as amended by Mental Health Act (2007). 2. Children Act 2004 3. Department of Health. (2004). National Service Framework for Children, young people and maternity services. London: HMSO 4. Royal College of Psychiatrists / NIMHE. (2009). Safe and Appropriate Care for Young People on Adult Mental Health Wards. London: RCP

Monitoring compliance with the processes outlined within this document

Please state how this document will be monitored. If the document is linked to the NHSLA accreditation process, please complete the monitoring section below.	The process will be monitored by patient safety and Effectiveness Sub Committee.
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1. Introduction

The Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) provides mental health services for people of all ages.

The Young People's Centre (YPC) provides inpatient assessment and treatment for young people aged between 13 and 18 in Cheshire and Merseyside and the wider North West of England. Planned admission services are to Pine Lodge and acute admissions to Maple Ward.

Maple Ward at Bowmere Hospital provides 24 hour emergency admission services. Pine Lodge on Liverpool Rd provides planned admission services.

The Tier 4 Assessment and Outreach Team (AOT) provides a gate-keeping assessment during the day (9am to 9pm). Emergency admissions 'out of hours' is via a gate-keeping assessment by CAMHS for children under 16 and Adult Mental Health Services for young people aged 16 and 17.

2. Current commissioning arrangements

NHS England commissions Tier 4 inpatient mental health services for children and young people on behalf of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

3. Policy context

3.1 The national service framework for children, young people and maternity services (2004)

The NSF sets the expectation that young people who require admission to hospital for mental health treatment should have access to appropriate care in an environment suited to their age and development.

An age appropriate environment refers to the accommodation, staff and facilities that children and young people need to fulfil their personal, educational and social development whilst in hospital.

For most children and young people requiring inpatient mental health services, the most appropriate environment will be within a child and adolescent inpatient service.

3.2 National Service Framework for Mental Health (1999)

The NSF states that if a bed in an adolescent unit cannot be located for a young person, but admission is essential for the safety and welfare of the service user or others, then care may be provided on an adult ward for a short period. As a contingency measure, NHS Trusts should identify wards or settings that would be better suited to meet the needs of young people.

A protocol must be agreed between the child and adolescent mental health services and adult services. Protocols should set out procedures that safeguard the patients' safety and dignity. The trust has an existing protocol to ensure safeguarding arrangements are in place.

3.3 Mental Health Act (2007)

Children under 16 and young people aged 16 or 17 should not be inappropriately placed on an adult mental health ward. The phrase 'inappropriate' is used because the Mental Health Act allows flexibility for children and young people under 18 to be placed on an adult mental health ward. This is where the need for urgent treatment outweighs the need for the child to be placed on a child and adolescent inpatient ward and that placing the child or young person on an adolescent ward is likely to jeopardise the safety and welfare of other children or young people.

Section 31 of the Mental Health Act includes provision to ensure that children and young people are not placed on adult mental health wards unless the environment is suitable for their age. This also applies to informal patients. The Act places a duty on hospital managers to provide an age appropriate environment and to consult a person with expertise and knowledge of working with children and young people in deciding whether such an environment is age appropriate. Within CWP this person will be a Tier 3 or Tier 4 CAMHS professional.

Discrete accommodation within an adult mental health ward is permissible, but only if appropriate CAMHS support, safeguarding measures and age appropriate facilities and resources are made available.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has published standards for *Safe and Appropriate Care for Young People on Adult Mental Health Wards* (RCP 2008). This refers to admission of young people with 'atypical' or 'overriding' needs (see below):

Overriding	Atypical
<p>When a young person needs immediate admission for their safety or that of others. This acknowledges that, although an inpatient adolescent bed is normally the preferred environment, there will be occasions when an adolescent bed (or alternative such as intensive outreach / crisis service) is not available. The revised Code of Practice (2008) states that if a young person is admitted in a crisis it should be for the briefest time possible (see 36.71).</p>	<p>When, even if an adolescent bed was available, an adult mental health ward is the most appropriate environment. For example, a young person who is nearly 18 who has left school and is being treated by the Early Intervention Psychosis team may be appropriately admitted. However, even in these circumstances or where a young person chooses to be treated in an adult ward as an alternative to an adolescent unit, safeguards must be in place to protect their welfare.</p>

3.4 Children Act 2004

Where any child or young person aged under 18 is accommodated on an adult mental health ward, providers and commissioners must have measures in place to meet their statutory obligations and their safeguarding requirements as set out in section 11 of the Children Act (2004). Key requirements are that:

- Beds in a single sex area where young people have access to same sex bedrooms, bathrooms and toilets have been specifically set aside for use by children or young people;
- All staff are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and have support and training available to them from CAMHS professionals;
- The local safeguarding children's board is satisfied with the measures in place;
- Using the Care Programme Approach (CPA), adult mental health and child and adolescent mental health staff work closely together to plan the care, discharge and after-care;
- Educational, recreational facilities and advocates who have been trained to work with children and young people and in mental health legislation are available;
- Local authority and voluntary social care, vocational and housing services are part of the network supporting the child or young person on the adult mental health ward.

4. Reporting arrangements

Where a child under 16 is admitted to an adult mental health ward (including PICU) within the Trust, adult mental health ward managers must complete a trust incident form and treat this as a serious untoward incident (SUI) graded category A. The Trust is required to notify the Department of Health of any admission of a child under 16 who is admitted to adult mental health wards. The SUI notification must include details of how the child is going to be moved to more appropriate accommodation within 48 hours.

Where a young person aged 16 or 17 year old is admitted to an adult mental health ward (including PICU) within the Trust, adult mental health ward managers must complete a trust incident form and treat this as a serious untoward incident (SUI) graded category D unless there is an untoward incident in which case the grading should reflect the nature of the incident.

SUI notifications of admission of children under 16 and young aged 16 or 17 to adult mental health wards must also be made to the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group via STEIS.

Senior clinicians from CWP CAMHS services should support managers on adult mental health wards to move young people who are inappropriately admitted to the adult mental health ward to age appropriate accommodation.

The senior nurse for safeguarding children should be informed of any placement of a children or young person aged under 18 on an adult mental health ward.

5. Care pathways for children and young people requiring tier 4 CAMHS inpatient services
Referral to the Pine Lodge or Maple ward are only accepted from Tier 3 CAMHS or adult mental health services. The child or young person must have first been assessed by Tier 3 CAMHS or adult mental health services.

6. Collaboration between AMH Services and CAMHS

6.1 Children under 16

Where a child under 16 is placed on an adult mental health ward (including PICU) for exceptional reasons, CAMHS at Tier 3 or Tier 4 should be fully involved in the care and treatment of the child prior to their discharge from the ward to a more appropriate setting.

24 hour nursing cover should be provided by clinicians from Tier 3 or Tier 4 CAMHS

6.2 Young people aged 16 or 17

All admissions of young people aged 16 or 17 should be to Pine Lodge or Maple Ward unless it has been deemed more appropriate to admit them to adult mental health services. Decisions about the most appropriate placement should be made between 16-19 and Adult Mental Health services.

Where a young person aged 16 or 17 is appropriately placed on an adult mental ward (including PICU) it is the responsibility of AMH services to provide a care coordinator and responsible clinician roles. It is the responsibility of 16-19 services to support their AMH colleagues whilst the young person is on the ward.

7. Duties and responsibilities

As outlined in the above policy and as referenced in the Mental Health Act 1983 as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007/Children Act 2004/National Service Framework for Children and Young People.