

Safe and appropriate care for young people: Why is this important for adult wards?

Section 31 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 2007 inserts a new section 131A into the MHA 1983, which requires Hospital Managers to ensure that under 18 year olds are admitted to an environment suitable for their age (subject to their need). This applies to both detained and informal patients. The amendment allows for the admission of an under 18 year old to an adult ward if their need is either:

- **Overriding:** when a young person needs immediate admission for their safety or that of others. This acknowledges that, although an inpatient child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) unit is normally the preferred environment for a person under age 18, there will be occasions when a bed or other CAMHS alternative (e.g. intensive outreach) is not available. If a young person is admitted in a crisis it should be for the briefest possible time (Mental Health Act Code of Practice, 2008).
- **Atypical:** when, even if a CAMHS bed is available, an adult ward is the most appropriate clinical placement. For example, a young person nearly 18 who has left school and is being treated by the Early Intervention Psychosis team, which has beds on the ward to which the young person will be admitted. However, even in these circumstances there is still an obligation to ensure that safeguards are in place for an under 18 year old in line with their status as a minor.

To give providers and commissioners time to plan for change, Section 31 is due to commence in **April 2010**.

“What has been so enjoyable about this process is it was not nurse- or medically-led, it was team-lead”

Why join AIMS-SC4Y?

AIMS-SC4Y will help adult wards prepare for the amendment and identify and prioritise problems specific to the admission of an under 18 year old to their ward, if the young person’s need is either overriding or atypical.

How does accreditation work?

The AIMS process helps wards to identify and prioritise problems and set achievable targets for change.

Member wards are supported through a 12-month review process that incorporates:

- **self-review**, including staff, service user and carer questionnaires;
- a **one-day peer-review visit**;
- a **recommendation of accreditation status by the AIMS Accreditation Advisory Committee**;
- **ratification of accreditation status by the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ Education, Training and Standards Committee**.

Accreditation is valid for up to 4 years, subject to satisfactory completion of an annual self-review.

Wards that cannot achieve accreditation at the point of review undergo deferral. This is a time-limited period in which they must identify and meet the necessary standards. Over 60% of wards which were deferred are now accredited.

“This accreditation is a means of identifying the quality of service provided by the ward and will reassure our patients that they are receiving high levels of care” Acute Care Manager

Benefits of Membership

- Standards were commended by the Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC 13th Biennial report 2007-2009, page 40).
- Provides opportunities to visit other wards and share ideas about good practice.
- Achievements of staff in meeting best practice standards are formally recognised through a **certificate of accreditation** from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
- Issues important to service users are addressed.
- **Newsletter:** Updates on what is going on in the world of AIMS.
- **Self-review:** AIMS-SC4Y member wards reflect on performance against the standards
- **Peer-review:** This involves a visit from a multi-disciplinary team made up of AMH & CAMHS professionals, YP service users, and carers. Action plans/recommendations are formulated.
- A chance to share ideas through the **AIMS-SC4Y email discussion group** with members from other Trusts.

Useful resources

See www.rcpsych.ac.uk/aims-sc4y for

Safe and appropriate care for young people on adult wards—pilot programme:

- **Final report: recommendations, ideas for improvements and key findings from the pilot**
- **Other useful resources from NMHDU are listed on page 12 of the report.**
- **Revised standards 2009-2010: basis of the review tools for accreditation.**

Joining Form

To sign up to the AIMS-SC4Y programme **please send the details below to: AIMS-SC4Y@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk**

AIMS Member: Yes _____; No _____ (✓)

TRUST NAME: _____

WARD NAME: _____

WARD ADDRESS: _____

WARD POSTCODE: _____

CONTACT TITLE: _____

CONTACT FIRST NAME: _____

CONTACT SURNAME: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

TEL: _____

EMAIL: _____

Fees Per Ward

AIMS members that want SC4Y accreditation:

1 Year @ £1,000 +VAT

2-4 Years (10% Discount)

Non-AIMS members that want both AIMS and SC4Y accreditation:

1 Year @ £2,800 +VAT

4 Years @ £10,080 (10% Discount)

Non-AIMS members that want SC4Y quality improvement review (this is not an accreditation):

1 Year @ £1,800 +VAT

4 Years@ £6,480 (10% discount)

TOTAL: _____

Invoice Details

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

NAME: _____

JOB TITLE/DESIGNATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

FAX: _____

Contact details

AIMS-SC4Y

The Royal College of Psychiatrists'
Centre for Quality Improvement
4th Floor, Standon House
21 Mansell Street
London E1 8AA

Tel 020 7977 4992

Fax 020 7481 4831

AIMS-SC4Y@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk

www.rcpsych.ac.uk/AIM-SC4Y



Accreditation for Inpatient Mental Health Services

Safe & Appropriate Care for Young People on Adult Wards

(AIMS-SC4Y)



National Mental Health
Development Unit