

# 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.

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

## How does accreditation work?

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](http://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](mailto: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 @ £900 +VAT

2-4 Years (10% Discount)

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

1 Year @ £2,400 +VAT

4 Years @ £8,640 (10% Discount)

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

1 Year @ £1,500 +VAT

4 Years @ £5,400 (10% discount)

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Invoice Details

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE/DESIGNATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact details

AIMS-SC4Y

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# Accreditation for Inpatient Mental Health Services

# Safe & Appropriate Care for Young People on Adult Wards

## (AIMS-SC4Y)



**National Mental Health  
Development Unit**