

Use of Section 5(2) within Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust:

Are we meeting MHA standards?



Humber Teaching
NHS Foundation Trust



A recent audit of section 5(2) paperwork in the partnering trust “Hull University Teaching Hospitals” revealed significant problems with the completion of forms raising the question if there are similar issues in the Humber Trust.

Considering that 5(2) sections are needed in an acute setting and restrict the patient’s freedom, it is important to evaluate if there is adequate and legal documentation in accordance with the Mental Health Act.



We focused on certain subpoints of **Chapter 18 in the Mental Health Act** and compared the findings to previous audit results from 2017 in the Humber Trust.



All 5(2) sections from 2021 in the Humber Trust, together with audit forms and relevant clinical notes were reviewed. Additionally, we collected data on demographics of patients put on a section 5(2) to identify possible patterns of vulnerable groups.



Results showed that **only 59% of Junior Doctors sought advice from Seniors**, which, however, was an overall improvement compared to the 2017 audit with 24%. **Only in 75% there was clear documentation of a personal examination of the patient**, which questioned the legality of those Sections. **Furthermore, it was noticed that some Section 5(2)s were solely put in place to “bridge” the patient to a section 2 or 3.**



Following the audit, some sections were re-reviewed by the Mental Health Legislation Manager and more teaching has been provided. **The findings show that more education around Section 5(2)s is needed for both Junior and Senior Clinicians.**

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