

Mental Health Commission

Addendum to Code of Practice for Mental Health Services on Death Notifications and Incident Reporting

24 March 2014

Re: *Notification to the Mental Health Commission of all sudden, unexplained deaths of persons availing of mental health services*

The Mental Health Commission (the Commission) at its meeting on 21 March 2014 approved an expansion to the *Code of Practice for Mental Health Services on Notification of Deaths and Incident Reporting*, in relation to notification of sudden, unexplained deaths as outlined below.

All sudden, unexplained deaths of any person availing of a mental health service should be notified to the Mental Health Commission. This requirement is effective immediately and the Commission will issue an addendum, to the *Code of Practice for Mental Health Services on Notification of Deaths and Incident Reporting*, in relation to this matter, in due course.

Approved centres are required, under Article 14(4) of the Mental Health Act 2001 (Approved Centres) Regulations 2006 to notify the Commission of all deaths, including sudden, unexplained deaths, of any resident of an approved centre as soon as possible and in any event within 48 hours of the death occurring.

All other mental health services which may include but are not limited to day hospitals, day centres, community residences, home-based treatment teams and out-patient departments should notify the Commission of all sudden, unexplained deaths of persons availing of their service as soon as possible and in any event within 7 days of the death occurring.

Mental health services should use the Mental Health Commission's death notification form available in hard copy or on our website http://www.mhcirl.ie/File/DN_Form.pdf or may use their own notification form where such a form contains all of the fields specified in the Commission's death notification form.

If you require further clarification in relation to this matter please contact Ms Deirdre Hyland, Mental Health Information Officer at deirdre.hyland@mhcir.ie

Patricia Gilheaney
Chief Executive