

21 February 2017

Memorandum on Version 4 of the Judgement Support Framework

This memorandum provides important information on Version 4 of the Mental Health Commission Judgement Support Framework. The Framework was revised following a minor, technical review, to correct errors, delete duplications and clarify points of ambiguity.

The revised Framework will be inspected against as part of the 2017 regulatory inspections. Changes to the Framework do not have any retrospective effect and will not be applied to any findings of the Inspector of Mental Health Services prior to the date of commencement.

Changes to the Judgement Support Framework

The scope of the review did not include changes to the substance of the Framework, or to the scoring system. The Commission is cognisant that in order to encourage quality improvement, the standards need to remain in place long enough to allow services a full opportunity to reach the 'excellence' standard. The Commission is aware that services have committed significant time, effort and resources towards not only attaining compliance, but working towards the quality assessment of 'excellent achievement'.

The vast majority of amendments in Version 4 are corrections to formatting, or minor amendments to wording to clarify the scope of the point. In five instances, additions have been made to the Framework. These points, detailed below, were added because they reflected a direct requirement of the relevant regulation, or mirrored a point already included elsewhere in the Framework.

Regulation	Section	New point
Regulation 14: Care of the Dying	Evidence of Implementation	4.7: The sudden death of a resident is managed in accordance with legal requirements.
Regulation 14: Care of the Dying	Evidence of Implementation	4.9: Support is given to other residents and staff following a resident's death.
Regulation 15: Individual Care Plan	Evidence of Implementation	4.17: When a resident declines or refuses a copy of their individual care plan, this is recorded, including the reason, if given.
Regulation 16: Therapeutic Services and Programmes	Evidence of Implementation	4.3: The therapeutic services and programmes provided by the approved centre are directed towards restoring and maintaining optimal levels of physical and psychosocial functioning of a resident.

Regulation 22: Premises	Processes	1.6: Providing adequate and suitable furnishings within the approved centre.
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While other points may include minor changes to wording, the amendments do not include new obligations or require changes to practice. The intent of these changes is to clarify the scope of the point, for example, specifying which staff need to have read and understood a specific policy, instead of just stating 'staff'.

To allow services to review and incorporate the changes as necessary, a full list of the amendments has been sent to services and is available on the Mental Health Commission website: www.mhcirl.ie/for_H_Prof/Guidance/JSF/.

Commencement

Version 4 of the Mental Health Commission Judgement Support Framework comes into effect on 22 February 2017.

The revised Framework is now available on the Mental Health Commission website: www.mhcirl.ie/for_H_Prof/Guidance/JSF/.