



Office of the Chief Psychiatrist
Media Statement

Thursday, 25 June 2020

Attributable to Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley:

A temporary condition has been placed on the Royal Adelaide Hospital to ensure the quality and safety of mental health care in the Emergency Department (ED). This condition commences on the 25th June 2020 and to the 25th September 2020.

It requires the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) to develop and put in place an intervention plan to monitor and manage the quality and safety of mental health care in the ED. Our community can have confidence that with this intervention plan, extra checks and reviews of care have been put in place, and they should continue to seek help when needed.

Findings from site inspections conducted by this Office identified the need for an agreed Model of Care that describes how mental health care will be delivered by Emergency Department and specialist Mental Health staff.

This will ensure necessary assessments, and therapeutic interventions are delivered, and that roles of staff in providing care are clear.

This Office identified as a key concern the clinical reporting and review of restrictive practices, which includes physical and mechanical restraint and the use of seclusion. Accurate data and incident review by clinical staff are critical elements to the international approach of reducing and eliminating (where possible) restrictive practices. Significant underreporting of restrictive practices has been identified.

A further recommendation is improvement to the environment for mental health consumers in distress, with installation of a dedicated interview room within the ED to facilitate assessment and review of mental health consumers.

The gazettal condition requires an intervention plan from CALHN. I have received the initial plan, which I have been pleased to endorse. This plan engages the Board, Executive, Clinical Leadership and frontline staff in improvement work.

My decision to put this condition in place is not a reflection on the individual work of the dedicated and skilled clinicians who deliver emergency mental health care at our busiest emergency department. The focus is on the procedures and clinical systems that support those clinicians.

This Office will work with staff at CALHN to ensure the mental health services provided at the Royal Adelaide Hospital uphold my expectations and I will continue to review progress.

Background

Under the *Mental Health Act 2009*, inspections can be conducted to facilities providing care and treatment to people with mental illness.

Inspections of the Royal Adelaide Hospital Emergency Department were conducted in October 2018 and January 2020, followed by an analysis of incident data in January and in May 2020.

For more information

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