

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM



Government of South Australia
SA Health

Reference No.: 2018-04915 / A1478843

**To: Chief Executive Officers – Local Health Networks
Chief Executive Officer – Adelaide Clinic**

**CC: Chief Executive – SA Health
Clinical Directors – Mental Health Services
Directors – Mental Health Services
Executive Directors – Medical Services
Executive Directors – Nursing Services
Clinical Directors and Directors – Emergency Departments**

From: Chief Psychiatrist

Date: 3 June 2019

Re: Interim Approval of the Use of Existing Restraint Devices for People experiencing Mental Illness

I am writing to you and your agency regarding the use of restraint devices for people who are experiencing mental illness, as a last resort for safety reasons and not for the convenience of others, in accordance with the *Mental Health Act 2009* (the Act).

My Office is reviewing the current Restraint and Seclusion in Mental Health Services Policy Guideline, Chief Psychiatrist Standards and Toolkit, with the view to release a revised Restrictive Practice Chief Psychiatrist Standard and Toolkit, made in accordance with section 90(2) of the Act, to be observed in the care and treatment of patients in all incorporated public hospitals and all licenced private hospitals. The revised Standard will seek to reduce and eliminate where possible the use of all forms of restrictive practices.

As we transition to the revised Standard, a two-step approval process for the use of restraint devices will be used – initially an interim approval for 6 months for existing restraint devices, and then a formal approval for 3 years for devices after they have been inspected and reviewed by this Office (this will involve clinical and lived experience staff).

I hereby grant interim approval for the continued use of all existing restraint devices in incorporated public hospitals and licenced private hospitals, where the hospital complies with the manufacturer's recommendations for use and maintenance of each device, where staff have been appropriately trained in the application of the device, and where device use is appropriately reviewed after application. The latter will occur through the Safety Learning System or Riskman System.

This interim approval is granted for 6 months, expiring on 30 November 2019.

As part of this interim approval, I request that a list of all devices used, including for each a photo, the manufacturer's instructions, a description of training provided, and a description of any concerns associated with its use, is sent to my Office by Friday 24 June 2019.

Any device that is not registered with our Office by that date cannot be used for people experiencing mental illness in an incorporated public hospital or a licenced private hospital.

If an incorporated public hospital or licenced private hospital wants to use a new restraint device for people experiencing mental illness, that device must be approved by the Chief Psychiatrist before use can commence.

The revised Chief Psychiatrist Standard and Toolkit, and an accompanying memorandum, will be released in coming months.

For more information please contact the Safety and Quality Team on 8226 1091 or Health.OCPsafetyQuality@sa.gov.au.



Dr John Brayley
CHIEF PSYCHIATRIST

3 / 6 / 19.