Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Resources - Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice Policy

1. Background

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) seeks to provide direction and guidance to all staff through the availability of appropriate evidence based guidelines and procedures. It is envisaged that this information will assist in the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation in meeting current legislation and the key principles of quality improvement.

2. Policy Statement

Whole of WA Health policy documents are the overarching policy documents that must be complied with by all WA Health staff. To complement these documents, the WACHS has endorsed specific policies, guidelines and procedures covering a range of issues related to clinical practice. WA Health and WACHS policy documents are available via the HealthPoint Policies intranet site.

The WACHS endorses the following ten (10) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Resources as evidence-based recommended practice for use by Medical, Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health staff.

1. Clinical Assessment Policy
2. Risk Assessment and Management Policy
3. Physical Health Assessment on Admission to CAMHS Community Services Policy
4. Managing Clinical Risk after Disclosure of Sexual Abuse Procedure
5. Psychotropic Medication – Monitoring Adverse Physical Effects Policy
6. Patient Rights under the Mental Health Act Policy
7. Mental Health Act Notifications Policy
8. Paediatric Consultation Liaison Program Multidisciplinary Team Reviews Guideline
9. Sexual Safety Guideline
10. Discharge and Transfer Policy
11. CAMHS Consent procedure (including CAMHS Consent principles and best practice guideline).

External sources that are endorsed for use in WACHS clinical practice provide a standard for clinical governance and service delivery, and provide a range of information and evidence-based practice to support best practice by all staff for country health patients and clients.

When applied, the information contained in these guidelines must take account of the context and scope of practice, level of service delivery and facility capacity.
Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA) references in these documents such as ‘Choice’ and ‘Partnership’ processes should be considered as synonyms with ‘Initial Assessment’ and ‘ongoing care’ in WACHS.

These guidelines do not indicate an exclusive course of action or serve as a definitive mode of patient care. Variations that take into account individual circumstances, clinical judgement, scope of professional practice and patient choice, may be appropriate dependent on the health care setting.

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these guidelines, no guarantee can be given that the information is free from error or omission. Users are strongly recommended to confirm by way of independent sources, that the information contained within these guidelines and procedures is correct, especially drug doses that may change from time of publication.

Please note the web-based electronic copy is the master copy for all guidelines, policies and procedures.

3. Policy Reviewers

The 12 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Resources listed in section 2 have been reviewed by the following WACHS subject matter experts:

- WACHS Mental Health Policy and Procedure Steering Committee

4. Standards

**National Safety and Quality Health Care Standards** (1-10) – 1.8, 9.9.1, 3, 6, 10, 5, 7, 8, 1.17.1, 1.1, 1.3, 1.19, 9.2, 10.4.8, 6.5, 8.7, 10.4, 10.5

**National Standards for Mental Health Services** – 1, 2, 8, 10, 10.45.1, 6, 7, 9, 2.3, 2.7, 10.5, 8.4, 6.5, 8.7, 10.4

5. Legislation

**Mental Health Act (WA) 2014 (‘MHA’)**

Chief Psychiatrist WA Standards of Clinical Care 2015

Clinician’s Practice Guide to the Mental Health Act 2014

Australia & New Zealand AS/NZS 4360 and (2204) Risk Management

**Children and Community Services Act 2004**

WA Criminal Code (1913)

6. References

Clinical risk assessment and management (CRAM) in Western Australian Mental Health Services

Clinical Risk Management Guidelines for the Western Australian Health System

Assessing Capacity to Consent in Minors, a clinical handbook

Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS)

Statewide Protection of Children Coordinator Unit (SPOOC)

WA Health Guidelines for Protecting Children

Reporting Abuse webpage

Fact sheet MHA 2014 Charter
7. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy document may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the Employment Policy Framework issued pursuant to section 26 of the Health Services Act 2016 (HSA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

8. Related WA Health Policies

WA Health System Language Service Policy
WA Government Language Services Policy and Guidelines
Confidentiality of Medical Records and Patient Information Policy
Stimulant medications for ADHD in children and adolescents
Risk of the Metabolic Syndrome Associated with the use of Psychotropic Drugs
Policy for mandatory reporting of Notifiable Incidents to Chief Psychiatrist
Use of SSRI and SNRI Antidepressants in Children and Adolescents – Provision of Information by the Chief Psychiatrist under the Mental Health Act 1996
Policy on the Use of Social Media
Responding to an allegation of sexual assault disclosed within a public mental service policy
WA Health Misconduct Policy
WA Guidelines for protecting children 2015

9. WA Health Policy Framework

Mental Health Policy Framework

10. Roles And Responsibilities

10.1 WACHS Executive Directors of Medical and Nursing and Midwifery Services, and the Chief Operating Officers are responsible for:
• acting as the principal endorsement authority for external organisations’ clinical policy documents.

10.2 WACHS Area and Regional Medical, Nurse, Mental Health, Aged Care and Population Health Directors are responsible for:

• participating in the review for appropriateness of external organisations’ clinical policy and guideline documents for use by clinicians within the WACHS.

10.3 All WACHS clinicians are accountable for their own practice and are to provide care:

• within their registration status
• in accordance with the codes and guidelines approved by their relevant National Board supported by AHPRA
• within their scope of practice and competence
• within their prescribed responsibilities and duties as defined in their Job Description Form (JDF) and
• within the context of practice that they are operating.

11. Evaluation

• Documentation audit biennially relating to specific CAMHS.