



BC MENTAL HEALTH ACT INFOBITS

Monthly MHA news, tips and resources

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CRITERIA FOR INVOLUNTARY ADMISSIONS UNDER THE MHA

The MHA legislation is intended for persons seriously impacted by a mental disorder who are not able to appreciate or are refusing psychiatric treatment.

Does that mean that everyone who has a mental or psychiatric disorder needs to be treated involuntarily under the MHA? What legal criteria must be met?

This issue discusses the four criteria for involuntary admission and treatment under the MHA & what should be considered before using the MHA.

HIGHLIGHT

The four BC MHA criteria for involuntary admission and treatment (all must be met in order for someone to be admitted):

1. The person has a disorder of the mind that seriously impairs the person's ability to react appropriately to his/her environment or to associate with others;
2. Requires treatment in or through a designated facility;
3. Requires care, supervision and control in or through a designated facility to prevent his/her substantial mental or physical deterioration or for the protection of the person or for the protection of others; AND,
4. Cannot be suitably admitted as a voluntary patient (BC MHA).

PRACTICE SUPPORT TOOLS & RESOURCES

- *UPDATED* MHA Form 4 Quick Guide v2.2
- Involuntary Admission Process (Poster)
- Consider Before Involuntary Admission

The June issue will discuss what the four criteria mean and how they may be presented clinically.

CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION

Involuntary admission should only be pursued once alternatives for it have been explored, and the person cannot suitably be admitted voluntarily.

- Does this person need to be admitted to hospital to receive psychiatric care? Or can they be helped by their regular health care provider?
- What indicates that this person is having trouble reacting appropriately to their environment? Is it impacting their relationships with their support network?
- Are they at risk of harming themselves or someone else?
- Can the person be persuaded to be hospitalized voluntarily?

When assessing, the principles of recovery oriented practice should be followed. Services must be delivered in a culturally-safe and trauma-informed manner, in a comfortable, non-threatening environment.

- Have BC MHA-related questions? Have an idea for a future newsletter topic? Reach out to: MHASupport@islandhealth.ca
- Resources, practice support tools & past INFOBITS issues - [click here](#)

MHA Quality Team